

Tomorrow

Secrets exposed
How government
hides its
leaking system

Big screen TV
Race for new-style
viewing at home

Mort d'Arfur
George Cole on
his return
to the stage

Battle fields
Preview of the
rugby internationals

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio daily competition prize of £2,000 was won yesterday by Mr A J Street of Hackney, London. Portfolio list, page 12: how to play, information service, back page. Tomorrow, £42,000 can be won - £40,000 in the weekly competition and £2,000 in a daily.

Happy-in-oven in sentenced

Richards, aged 19, of whom, Kent, who put puppy in a hot oven for his living room floor, sentenced to three years' detention. The died.

Cie date

Bishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie, will be in Bombay on 9, while both mening separate tours of Dr Runcie will also Mother Theresa in India. Lambeth Palace announced.

Buying power

A Labour government would use Marks and Spencer buying methods as the basis for a £25 billion a year "Buy British" campaign, according to Mr Roy Hattersley, the deputy party leader. Page 8.

SMOKING is... (cough) frightfully good (cough) for SPORT (cough)



Car confusion

Motorists found guilty of identical traffic offences can expect much heavier fines in some parts of the country than elsewhere, according to a survey by the Automobile Association. Page 3.

Oath sworn

To mark his eighteenth birthday, Don Felipe de Bourbon, Crown Prince of Spain, swore to uphold the country's democratic constitution - an unprecedented move. Page 8.

Drug verdict

Jason Fitzsimmons, aged 14, who died after smoking heroin in Croydon, Liverpool, died because of his "non-dependent use of drugs," an inquest decided. Page 2.

Husain failure

King Hussein of Jordan's Middle East peace plan was thought to have collapsed after the failure of talks with Mr Yassir Arafat in Amman. Page 8.

Inquiry hitch

A judicial inquiry into police methods in Chile may be analysed by a decision of three supreme court judges. Page 6.

FOCUS

There are not enough homes for the growing numbers of people. A Special Report examines the role of Anchor housing. Pages 23-25.

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Channon blocks key witnesses at leak inquiry

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Westland affair yesterday developed into an angry constitutional clash between the Government and Parliament when ministers stopped key witnesses appearing before a Commons select committee to give evidence about the leak of the Solicitor General's letter and Mr Leon Brittan and government officials refused point blank to answer further questions about the leak.

The hopes of the Government that the Westland dispute would die down after the Prime Minister's well-acclaimed performance in the Commons debate on Monday were dashed when Conservative and Labour anger at Mr Brittan's unyielding stance before the all-party Select Committee on Defence, and at the ban on three Department of Trade and Industry officials appearing, spilled over into a fierce Commons clash.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher told MPs that the Government wanted to co-operate with select committees, but that the defence committee's request for private secretaries and personal staff to give evidence had "major implications for the conduct of the government and for relations between ministers and their private offices."

But it was clear from the committee proceedings that the Government has decided to block attempts to prise out further information about the leaking of Sir Patrick Mayhew's letter to Mr Michael Heseltine. Authoriza-

tion of that leak by Mr Brittan led to his resignation as Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. Mr Paul Channon, his successor, stopped Miss Collette Bowe, the head of information at the ministry, Mr John Mogg, principal private secretary in the Secretary of State's office, and Mr John Mitchell, head of the air division, from appearing before yesterday's hearing.

Sir Brian Hayes, permanent secretary at the ministry, who appeared before the committee with two of his senior officials in place of the barred witnesses, explained why Mr Channon had not allowed them to appear.

He said Mr Channon had in mind that two of the officials (Miss Bowe and Mr Mogg) had already had a considerable degree of media exposure and the committee might want to question them further. He said it seemed to Mr Channon that there would be nothing further to add to what was already a matter of public record.

Sir Brian was then himself questioned. But when MPs raised the circumstances of the leak, he said that he could not add anything to the statements made by Sir Humphrey Atkins, the committee chairman, whether all questions relating to matters covered by the leak inquiry would be met with that reply, Sir Brian said that it would.

Mr Brittan's refusal to

answer questions had angered the Conservative as well as Labour members. His first outright refusal was made in reply to Mr Winston Churchill, Conservative MP for Devonport, who had asked Mr Brittan whether it was he who had authorized the Solicitor General's letter to be leaked in a selective manner.

Mr Brittan said that the circumstances had been fully dealt with by the Prime Minister and his own speech on Monday, and he would add nothing further.

Then, in a sharp and tense exchange with Dr John Gilbert, the senior Labour MP on the committee, Mr Brittan refused to answer at least nine questions relating to the leak.

The dispute boiled over when Dr Gilbert accused Mr Brittan of having a detailed recollection on some matters and a selective memory on others.

Mr Brittan retorted that that was "unworthy, unfair and untrue."

Sir Humphrey asked Sir Brian Hayes whether he was aware of the unqualified power of the select committee to send for persons, papers and records and to secure the attendance of whoever it wished.

Sir Brian said that he was but referred the committee to the Government's memorandum of guidance to Civil Servants about select committees.

Leading article, page 13

News International dispute

Thatcher attacks Wapping boycott

By Anthony Bevin, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister agreed yesterday with a Commons suggestion that the Labour boycott of all journalists employed by News International cut at the very root of democracy.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher joined in the political backlash against Labour's national executive committee during Commons question time. She said: "I wish those newspapers well in their efforts to print on the latest equipment."

She told Mr Eric Heffer, Labour MP for Liverpool Walton and a member of the Labour executive: "Unless industry under the policies of this Government had been able to become thoroughly competitive, we should have lost whole industries and the unemployment position would have been infinitely worse."

"Restrictive practices and over-manning do not save jobs; they lead to the loss of infinitely more jobs in the end."

But Mrs Thatcher agreed with Sir Edward Gardner, Conservative MP for Fylde, when he said that Mr Neil Kinnock's boycott of all journalists employed by News International was outrageous and "cut at the very root of democracy."

She also commended the view of Mr George Gardner, Conservative MP for Reigate, that Mr Kinnock and his entire front bench team should be transported to join the picket line at the News

International Wapping plant, "thereby ensuring that every worker crosses the picket line."

News International said yesterday that Wednesday night's production of *The Times* and *The Sun* was only marginally short of the full print run and the best since operations were moved at the weekend to the new plant at Wapping, east London, and in Glasgow (John Young writes).

The *Sun* printed 4,374,370 copies, only 22,000 short of its full print run, a company official said. *The Times* printed 521,680, only 4,500 short of its target.

The company also claimed that all its drivers had reported for work despite instructions from the Transport and General Workers' Union not to cross picket lines.

Following the granting of injunctions against the print unions Sogat '82 and the NGA ordering pickets to cease to "stop, restrain or persistently follow" drivers, police restricted the number of pickets outside the Wapping plant to six. But a group of about 200 people on the road outside shouted abuse at the drivers.

Mr Todd, the TGWU general secretary, said as he went into a TUC meeting at Congress House yesterday that he was "not going to throw in the towel because people are telling me that drivers are still going through the picket lines."

He said he would be consulting his national executive council and legal officers to consider the implications of the injunction.

Mr Eric Hammond, general secretary of the EETPU, whose members are cooperating in the production of the company's four titles, had already informed the TUC that he would not be attending yesterday's meeting.

In a letter to Mr Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, he repeated his

Sir Edward Gardner

Continued on page 20L 5

US deficit soars to \$148.8bn

From Bailey Morris Washington

The US Trade deficit, exacerbated by the high dollar for all of 1985, surged to a record \$148.8 billion (\$105 billion) last year as imports continued to outpace exports in a pattern that produced the worst trade year ever.

Administration officials said yesterday that the deficit in December alone rose to a record \$17.4 billion despite a ten per cent drop in the dollar's value against other currencies since last September.

The deficit with Japan accounted for an estimated one third of the total deficit, rising to a record \$49.7 billion last year up from \$37 billion in 1984.

Congressional officials reacted sharply yesterday to the Japan figures, noting a growing movement in both houses to take protectionist action to stem the tide of Japanese exports.

The US deficit with Western Europe rose to \$27.4 billion last year and the deficit with Canada, another large trading partner, was \$13.1 billion.

Commerce Department officials said overall the United States did not run a surplus with any of its largest trading partners last month.

US exports, reflecting the high dollar and the sluggish industrial pace, totalled only \$213 billion last year, falling 2.2 per cent below 1984 while imports rose 6 per cent to \$361.6 billion in 1985.

The weak trading performance last year was a prime factor in reducing overall US growth in 1985 when the economy grew by only 2.3 per cent, its weakest showing since the recession of 1982.

Economists said yesterday that the dollar will have to drop even further before it has a favourable effect on the trade balance by relieving pressures on American manufacturers who have lost a big share of their overseas markets to foreign competitors and have been unable to compete with cheaper imports.



A serviceman carries a piece of debris believed to be from the shuttle Challenger and found on Cocoa Beach in Florida. The debris is being impounded for Nasa inquiries.

Shuttle searchers find 30ft-long piece of wreckage

From Trevor Fishlock, Cape Canaveral

The search for an answer to the Challenger shuttle disaster became an urgent national campaign yesterday. The best engineering and scientific brains are being recruited to find out what caused the explosion that obliterated the craft and its seven crew 75 seconds after launch.

There is a strong demand from a shocked public to know the reason for the tragedy. In what will develop into the most exhaustive inquiry of a technological catastrophe ever undertaken, teams of investigators set up by Nasa are being assigned to cover every aspect of the disaster.

Dr William Graham, acting administrator of Nasa, said here: "Nasa will work with the engineering, scientific and flight communities to draw on the best, the most qualified experts we have in America. Their expertise will be brought to the analysis of this issue and its resolution and correction."

Ships combing a 6,000 square mile area of the Atlantic, with the aid of helicopters and other aircraft, have recovered more than a quarter of a tonne of debris from the Challenger, most of it twisted and charred scraps.

Searchers have found what appeared to be part of an instrument or control panel from the Challenger measuring about 30ft. This is the largest piece found so far and the most significant.

The wreckage is being assembled at Cape Canaveral. Small pieces of debris, including bits of the shuttle's heat resistant tiles, are being found on beaches here. Nasa

Jobless level surges to record 14.4%

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Unemployment has surged to a new record level, dashing Government hopes that the jobless total had stopped increasing. The adult unemployment total, after seasonal adjustment, rose by 20,600 to 3,204,900, a peak, between December and January.

The raw unemployment total, including school leavers, increased by 134,640 to 3,407,729, higher even than during the depression years of the 1930s. The unemployment rate rose from 13.5 per cent in December to 14.1 per cent this month.

Lord Young of Graffham, the Secretary of State for Employment, said: "This month's figures do not make happy reading. We expected the rise in the unadjusted total but the rise in the seasonally adjusted figure is unwelcome."

"But unemployment figures do show substantial variations from month to month and it is too soon to conclude that the recent flat trend has come to an end. After two months' rise we must not over-react."

The 20,600 increase in adult unemployment this month follows a 17,700 rise in December, a bigger increase than originally estimated. In the six months to November, the jobless total fell by an average of nearly 2,000 a month. The December and January increases mean that the average monthly rise over the latest six months is 5,000.

Vacancies also declined, with a fall in the seasonally adjusted total of 2,400 to 159,700. The Government is getting less help from its special employment and training measures. The number kept off the unemployment register by these measures was 495,000 at the end of December, the same as in the previous two months. There is evidence that the expansion of the Community Programme is falling behind schedule. The number of places is targeted to rise to 230,000 by the summer.

The jobless figures were condemned by opposition politicians. Mr John Prescott, the Labour Party's employment spokesman, said: "Today's appalling figures confirm the Government's total indifference to mass unemployment. Government policies have produced the highest interest, inflation and unemployment rates of any of our major competitors."

"It is a deplorable sense of priorities that Westland Helicopters can produce a Government crisis and Cabinet resignations, compared to the total indifference to the troubling unemployment of this Government."

Mr Richard Wainwright, the Liberal employment spokesman, said: "Today's figures must jolt the Government into a complete re-think of policy."

Mr Ian Wrigglesworth, the SDP's economic and industrial spokesman, said: "This is a broken-backed Government with broken-backed policies. The Chancellor's economic strategy has now disintegrated."

A spokesman for the Trades Union Congress described the figures as "horrifying" and added that: "The nation is fed up with the paper-thin fabrications from Government ministers about the alleged recovery. The nation wants action on jobs, not lame excuses."

The CBI President, Sir James Clegg, said that the figures were "extremely disappointing." "That is why our members want priority given in the next Budget, not to personal tax cuts, but to the properly-costed CBI proposals tackling long-term unemployment - particularly in the inner cities," he said.

The latest unemployment figures include 101,312 school leavers. Between December and January there was a 1,920 rise in school leaver unemployment and a 132,720 increase for adults.

Over the past year, unemployment has risen fastest in Northern Ireland, with the percentage rate up by 1.4 points. This was followed by Yorkshire and Humberside, up 0.7, East Anglia 0.6, Scotland 0.5, the South West and Wales 0.4, the South East and North 0.3, East Midlands 0.2, the North West 0.1, and the West Midlands no change. The national average increase was 0.3 percentage points.

Killer widow's case reviewed

The case of an elderly widow serving a life sentence in Durham prison for murdering her lover is under review by the parole board. Pamela McGinnison, aged 64, was convicted in 1983 of killing the man, aged 79, with a champagne bottle in the South of France after an argument over another woman.

Amex outlook

Direct foreign investment in developing countries could double to about \$20 billion (£14.3 billion). American Express Bank says in its latest Review. The increase would be three times the new bank credits proposed under the Baker plan for increasing capital flows to developing countries.

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831 jobs facing axe at arms factories as defence orders drop

Up to 831 jobs are facing the axe at two Royal Ordnance ammunition factories in the North.

The Ammunition Division of the Royal Ordnance company said yesterday it was looking for "significant redundancies" because of falling orders from the Ministry of Defence.

A company spokesman said 446 jobs could go at Birtley, Tyne and Wear, and 385 at Chorley, Lancs. "We currently have 1,300 workers at Birtley and this would mean a 33 per cent cut," the spokesman said. "At Chorley we have 1,765 workers, and the loss of 385 jobs would be a 22 per cent cut."

The spokesman emphasized that some jobs might be saved if the firm attracted new orders while the number of compulsory redundancies would be kept to a minimum. "We shall be looking for voluntary redundancies and early retirement wherever possible," he added. "The need for these redundancies arises primarily from a decline of ammunition orders from the MoD."

Later last night a union official said he had been told that the MoD would place an order for 30,000 howitzers on the basis of a six-point plan which included a call for

might cut the redundancies by 10 per cent.

The MoD could not confirm that the order had been placed, but said a statement would be made in the Commons later.

Of the 831 projected job losses, 620 would be shop floor workers and the rest white-collar staff.

Mr Tom Burlison, TUC North chairman, described the job losses at Birtley as a "shattering blow" to the region.

"This has been designated as Industry Year, but with the announcement at Birtley and today's massive increase in unemployment statistics, it really is meaningless to believe that 1986 is going to bring the North anything more than further job losses," he said.

Mr Gerry Ferguson, a union convenor, said: "We are disgusted about the handling of the situation by local and national management."

"Other Royal Ordnance establishments were notified of our redundancies before the local management had the courtesy to inform their workforce."

Mr Ferguson said the unions at Birtley intended to fight redundancies on the basis of a six-point plan which included a call for

anticipated MoD orders to be brought forward.

Mr Derek Brooks, director of the Birtley factory, said he was "very sad" about the redundancies at the plant which dates from 1977 and up to a few years ago employed more than 2,000.

The proposed cutback was due to the reduction in ammunition orders from the MoD who provide about 90% of their work.

He confirmed the cutbacks could be avoided if just two of the points on the unions' six-point plan put to the MoD bore fruit.

The first was the order for howitzers.

The other was a request to win back a contract placed by the MoD with a West German firm, for 155mm howitzer shells, as part of a weapons deal involving the UK, Italy and West Germany.

If this contract was returned to Britain there would be no need for redundancies at either Birtley, which would produce the shells, or Chorley, which would put the explosives into them.

As for fears about the long term future of the plant, this could be cleared up by the placing of a £25 million order for a new multi-launch rocket system, a joint Nato venture



The Princess of Wales joining in a game of snooker with an enthusiastic Colin Wilson, aged 15, during her visit to the Centre for the Deaf in Northampton yesterday. The princess drew applause when she potted a red with her first stroke.

Channel 4 spends £40m on season

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

Channel 4 is to screen eight drama series including a four-part version of *Mervyn Peake's* fantasy novel *Mr Eyns* starring Derek Jacobi as part of its new season costing £40 million.

The channel's other drama projects include a version of Shelley's Gothic novel, *Zastrozzi*, *A Romance*, and a joint Italian-Chinese production of the life of Marco Polo. The schedules will also fea-

ture the return of E. F. Benson's *Mapp and Lucia*, *Prospect*, a 12-part series about two young men trying to survive in the newly upwardly mobile world of the Isle of Dogs.

The company behind the popular C4 soap opera *Brookside* will produce a six-part serial about the problems of adolescence, *What Now?* Daniel J. Travanti, the star

of *Hill Street Blues*, will play the American broadcaster Edward R. Murrow in a documentary-drama. It recreates Murrow's struggles to establish standards of American broadcast journalism.

The season's documentaries will include *The Inner Eye* in which the Cambridge psychologist Dr Nicholas Humphrey expounds his theory about "natural

psychology".

Channel 4 News is to extend its Friday night edition to 50 minutes, and the rock programme *The Tube* is to be repeated late on Tuesdays.

Sonya Braga, recently acclaimed in the film *Kiss of the Spiderwoman*, stars as an ex-prisoner returning to society in *Dancin' Days*, another daily soap opera from Brazil.

Police 'weaken' crown prosecutors

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The powers of the new crown prosecutors to weed out weak cases when the new prosecution service starts later this year will be undermined by the continuing control of the police, an article in this month's *Criminal Law Review* says.

In theory, the new crown prosecutors are meant to take over responsibility for what prosecutions are brought, it says. But in practice the police will control what cases come to court.

"This means that it is for the court, not the prosecutor, to decide whether or not proceedings should be terminated," it says.

The article, by Dr Andrew Sanders, a lecturer at Birmingham University, says that "in an understandable attempt to produce a major reform without completely disrupting the criminal justice system", the Government is trying to insert a new service into the old structure.

Police processes in particular will not change, Dr Sanders says. Independence from the police has been created by giving crown prosecutors the power to drop cases in line with

government guidelines, but they will have little incentive to do so. "The need for cordial police-prosecutor relationships will remain."

Not only many courts view the government policy guidelines with little favour, but the police will retain their "unbridled power to put cases before the courts".

The article concludes that by failing to give prosecutors sole power to initiate prosecutions the Government has failed to make them independent of the police.

In an article in the same issue, another lawyer, Mr Francis Bennion, says that the new arrangements show little sign of remedying "a notorious defect in the present system".

On matters of deep public concern, such as a national strike or civil unrest, he says, it will be no easier to find out why evidence is not being gathered with a view to prosecuting the organizers of criminal activities, for example "mass picketing".

"On questions of whether or not to investigate, even where the criminal activity is on a national scale, the police it seems will continue to decide."

Computer market declining

By Bill Johnston, Technology Correspondent

British consumers are expected to buy about 400,000 fewer home computers this year than they did last year, indicating that the market is declining.

The findings are those of the stockbrokers Wood, Mackenzie who conclude that, while consumers will purchase 750,000 computers this year, dropping from 1.35 million in 1984 and 1.12 million last year, they are prepared to invest much more money in their machines.

The average computer cost about £200 last year. This year the shopper is prepared to spend £350 on a machine and is expecting much more for his money.

According to the Wood, Mackenzie survey, the first generation of home computers is being replaced by more complex machines. The Electron, the Commodore 64 and the Sinclair Spectrum are in that category, according to the stockbrokers.

The launch of the Amstrad microcomputer last year has had a big effect on the market. The machine sells for £399, which includes a display unit, a computer keyboard and a printer.

Commodore has launched its new machine in the United States and would expect to introduce it into Europe this year. Sinclair has promised new products, including a portable machine. A new model from Acorn and its partner Olivetti is also expected.

Sit-down lunch for a million

By Our Motoring Correspondent

An aero-engine developed by Porsche, based on the "flat six" engine in its 911 high performance car, has powered a light aircraft on a 100,000km round-the-world flight.

The 3.2 litre engine is claimed to be safer, more economical, and more ecologically favourable than aero-engines of similar capacity.

It permits the pilot to take off or land operating one control rather than having to balance controls of ignition, throttle and propeller pitch on conventional light aircraft.

The Porsche engine runs on normal leaded or unleaded petrol.

Round-world flight success for Porsche

By Our Motoring Correspondent

An aero-engine developed by Porsche, based on the "flat six" engine in its 911 high performance car, has powered a light aircraft on a 100,000km round-the-world flight.

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AA in dispute over lead-free petrol

By Our Motoring Correspondent

As an alternative to cheap lead-free petrol the Government should cut car tax on new "lead-free only" vehicles.

The Motor Agents' Association said last night: "The Government is as likely to withdraw car tax from lead-free cars as it is to reduce tax on cigarettes and tobacco."

"But cars like the new Ford Escort which are able to run on both types of petrol are coming on to the market this year in increasing numbers and the only way to persuade motorists to swap from their old petrol is by giving them an attractive advantage in the price of lead-free at the pumps."

Leaded petrol should cost the same as unleaded, the Automobile Association said yesterday, disagreeing with the motor trade, which has urged the Government to make new lead-free petrol cheaper.

The EEC requires member states to make lead-free petrol widely available over the next three years.

The AA said the Government should adjust taxation on lead-free, which is more expensive to produce, so that the pump price of the two fuels would be identical. To do otherwise would be to penalize users of vehicles needing leaded petrol.

Judge in damages case will inspect cathedral

By Our Motoring Correspondent

A High Court judge will inspect the Roman Catholic cathedral at Liverpool as part of a negligence case against the architect and consultant engineer who designed and built it.

The official referee, Mr James Andrew-Fox, QC, will spend Monday and Tuesday in the city.

The archdiocesan trustees are claiming damages, alleging breach of contract and negligence against Frederick Gibberd & Partners, the architects, the estate of the late Sir Frederick Gibberd and Lowe & Rodin, engineers. It is claimed inadequate design and materials had resulted in severe water damage.

The defendants deny the allegations.

Yesterday, the eighth day of the hearing, Mr Patrick Phillips, QC, for the architects, said: "Sir Frederick was

Drug use verdict on boy

An inquest on Jason Fitzsimmons, aged 14, who died after smoking heroin with other boys at a derelict block of flats in Croxteth, Liverpool, decided yesterday that he had died because of his "non-dependent use of drugs".

A friend of the dead boy told the Merseyside coroner, Mr Roy Barter, at yesterday's adjourned inquest that Jason and a friend of his had smoked heroin from a small bag. He and the other boy had taken less than a teaspoonful.

Jason, of Braybrooke Road, Norris Green, died in Alder Hey Hospital, Liverpool, four days after being found collapsed last August.

Jason's friend told the inquest he first smoked the drug at Christmas 1983, and tried it again about three weeks later. "Then it got more frequent than that," the boy added.

He bought from people living on the Croxteth Estate. Prices were from £5 to £6, depending on the size of the bag.

A large £60 bag gave Mr Barter a half-a-dozen smokes.

The youth said pushers could be found from a midday, hanging around derelict flats and on corners.

Only two pushers were the streets but there were three or four houses on Croxteth estate where could be obtained.

"There are plenty of who you can buy Liverpool. Croxteth worse than anywhere he said."

Det Chief Insp Deary, head of Merseyside Police Squad, said figures to abuse of drugs among people on Merseyside were "absolutely chilling".

"Of more than 2,000 people who came to our notice for drugs offences last year more than 50 per cent were 20 years old or under, at that is sad," he said.

Mr Deary said heroin abuse had seen a big rise. A local addict would buy a gram for about £65 and then split it into 10 small packets.

The jury was told by the coroner that there were three possible verdicts: death from dependence on drugs, from non-dependent abuse of drugs, and accidental death.

Mr Barter said the evidence indicated that Jason was not dependent on drugs. If the jury discounted that Jason's death was caused by drug abuse, they could return an accidental death verdict.

"This will be appropriate if you thought he was perhaps fooling around, just taking things for the sake of it and acting irresponsibly."

Navy vessels spend more time at sea

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Frigates and destroyers of the Royal Navy are spending more time at sea than they did during the Second World War, according to naval sources.

They are now at sea for nearly half the year, whereas during the Second World War, and until recent years, they were out of port for only about 40 per cent of the time. It is said that the present use of these escort vessels is about three times as high as in the 1930s.

There has been concern that the time spent at sea, particularly since the Falklands conflict, might cause manpower and efficiency problems because of separation from friends and families.

However, senior officers claim that operational standards have improved during the last 20 years.

The high level of use at sea of destroyers and frigates has arisen partly because of the Government's policy of limiting the number of these ships to about 50. Also, demands made on the vessels has tended to rise through the need to maintain a naval presence around the Falkland Islands and in the Gulf area.

In spite of fears that the attractiveness of the Navy as a career might be damaged by increased work pressure, senior officers say that they are meeting recruitment targets for both officers and ratings, although there are difficulties in some specialist areas.

Clash over Tube link for dockland railway

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

The future of the planned London docklands railway was clouded yesterday by a dispute about the siting of its Underground terminus in the City.

The common council of the City Corporation voted to oppose London Regional Transport's plan to end the railway at the Bank Underground station.

The common council, equivalent of a borough council, opted for a terminus at Cannon Street near by for the light railway which will go to the fast-developing industrial area on former dockland in the Isle of Dogs.

It decided to petition against the Bill for a Bank terminus which is to be promoted by London Regional Transport, the new transport authority for the capital.

The terminus was planned originally for the Minories,

near the present British Rail Fenchurch Street station. But the transport authority backed dockland developers who said that a terminus was needed nearer the heart of the City.

The common council decided that Bank, one of the busiest commuter interchanges in London, was already far too busy to accommodate thousands of extra passengers from the new railway.

It proposed a travelator link between Cannon Street and the Bank similar to that in use in the Bank station. It said that its light railway terminus at Cannon Street would not have to be as deep as that at Bank and would allow for possible further westward underground extensions of the railway.

Thatcher backs Times move

Continued from page 1

misgivings about security after he and colleagues had been kicked and punched both outside and inside Congress House on Tuesday.

At yesterday's meeting the TUC general council decided that the EETPU's actions in the dispute might be detrimental to the trade union movement. The union would be asked to give an explanation by next Wednesday.

On BBC Breakfast Television yesterday Mr Todd accused Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman of News International, of "industrial dictatorship".

Interviewed on the same programme, Mr Murdoch recalled that only seven days ago he had offered the unions six months' negotiations to resolve the question of redundancy payments.

"They did not want to negotiate. They thought the way to bring me to my knees

was to go on strike, and they miscalculated," Mr Murdoch said.

The print unions "rackets" - "old Spanish customs" and people working only half time or even quarter time and drawing full pay - were deeply resented by journalists. He was certainly not going back.

Miss Brenda Dean and Mr Tony Dubbins, general secretaries of SOGAT and the NGA respectively, yesterday launched a joint campaign urging the public not to buy Mr Murdoch's newspapers.

Clifford Longley, father of *The Times* NUJ Chapel (office branch) said yesterday: "I hope all journalists will be alert to the threat to the freedom of the Press in the present crisis in the newspaper industry. Any refusal to treat *Times* journalists as journalists, by politicians, trade unions, or whomsoever, puts press freedom in great danger."

Parliament, page 4

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Clash over Tube link for dockland railway

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

The future of the planned London docklands railway was clouded yesterday by a dispute about the siting of its Underground terminus in the City.

The common council of the City Corporation voted to oppose London Regional Transport's plan to end the railway at the Bank Underground station.

The common council, equivalent of a borough council, opted for a terminus at Cannon Street near by for the light railway which will go to the fast-developing industrial area on former dockland in the Isle of Dogs.

It decided to petition against the Bill for a Bank terminus which is to be promoted by London Regional Transport, the new transport authority for the capital.

The terminus was planned originally for the Minories,

Thatcher backs Times move

Continued from page 1

misgivings about security after he and colleagues had been kicked and punched both outside and inside Congress House on Tuesday.

At yesterday's meeting the TUC general council decided that the EETPU's actions in the dispute might be detrimental to the trade union movement. The union would be asked to give an explanation by next Wednesday.

On BBC Breakfast Television yesterday Mr Todd accused Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman of News International, of "industrial dictatorship".

Interviewed on the same programme, Mr Murdoch recalled that only seven days ago he had offered the unions six months' negotiations to resolve the question of redundancy payments.

"They did not want to negotiate. They thought the way to bring me to my knees

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Heads seek tough line on drug abuse in classroom

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

The "softly softly" approach to drug abuse among the young was rejected yesterday by head teachers in England and Wales who called for a hard-hitting campaign to stop primary and secondary school children experimenting with drugs, solvents and alcohol.

Children found pushing drugs or in possession of illegal substances at schools should be suspended, and the illegal substances should be confiscated and handed to the police, the National Association of Head Teachers said at the launch of a memorandum on alcohol, drug and solvent abuse.

The document, which has been sent to all 24,500 NAHT members, said: "For schools not to recognize the problem or believe it cannot exist among their own pupils is naive, for the problem is not exclusive to any one geographic region or any one social class."

There has been an estimated 28 per cent increase in the number of newly registered addicts, and heads cited cases of children sniffing glue and correcting fluid, taking snorting drugs for sports, and smoking heroin.

The association recommended that parents should be contacted immediately if a child is found in possession of controlled drugs, such as heroin, cocaine, cannabis or amphetamines.

The head should suspend the pupil and call in the police so that the suppliers can be identified. If the police ask for the names of the

children involved, head teachers must supply them, but otherwise the NAHT recommends that names are not given.

Mr Derek Best, the association's president, said that virtually all secondary school youngsters were fully aware of the drugs scene, and knew the language and drugs available. But 9, 10 and 11-year-olds were increasingly being drawn in.

He said every local education authority should draw up a policy to ensure there is off-the-job training for teachers and a system of referral for schools so that heads know where to turn.

Every child who turned to solvents or drugs needed sympathy and help rather than chastisement, the NAHT memorandum said. "The temptation to pupils in our schools is enormous and teachers should be aware of these facts. Heads should be discussing with their staffs what contribution they need to make within the curriculum of the school in order to alert pupils to the dangers, and take preventative measures."

The headteachers were scathing about what they called the Home Office's "softly softly" approach to the problem, and said there needed to be an explicit and aggressive publicity campaign similar to the anti-smoking and anti-drinking campaigns.

Schools should agree a statement of policy with the governors, and there should be up-to-date materials, including films and video tapes, for teacher education.



The blazing freighter Ebn Magid on Chesil Beach, Dorset, yesterday.

Burning cargo ship beached on sandbank

The Libyan freighter Ebn Magid was towed out of Portland naval base yesterday and flooded with water jets from 10 vessels after a fire burning in its holds for more than 40 hours got out of control. It sank in shallow water over a sandbank.

Part of a cargo of dangerous chemicals, ethanol and butanol, were still on board but the Dorset fire brigade

said the danger that they might explode was slight. The chemicals give off toxic fumes if burned. The captain remained on board.

The 7,500-ton freighter sent out a distress signal 21 miles south-west of Portland at 5.15 pm on Tuesday after five broke out in a consign-ment of animal feed cake its No 3 hold amidships. The destroyer HMS Manchester

and the German frigate Niedersachsen escorted it to the harbour where, on fire officers' advice, it docked shortly after midnight.

Firemen from all over Dorset, naval ratings and civilians from the base worked frantically in relays to clear the decks of 13-ton containers, cars and trucks in order to open the hatches. Then they struggled to unload

55-gallon drums of chemicals from the No 1 hold while firemen in breathing apparatus tried to fight the fire in No 3.

But by Thursday morning the fire had spread out of control. At 6.45 am the 30-man Libyan crew were evacuated and, "blazing from end to end" the ship was towed by Royal Navy tugs 300 metres out into Portland Harbour.

There it was beached and doused with jets from firefighting vessels, tugs and other boats, the brigade said.

The Royal Navy said: "We expect the ship to sink a few feet into the water and founder and hopefully the flames will be doused."

The crew were being housed and fed at HMS Osprey, the base's onshore recreation centre.

Now the boss is a temp, too

A new breed of "executive temp" will be a regular visitor in British boardrooms and offices in a move announced by the Confederation of British Industry yesterday.

He is highly specialized, probably in the middle of his career, and extremely well paid.

The professional trouble-shooter joins a company for anything from five weeks to

two years, either to mastermind a particular project or solve a crisis.

From next week the CBI will act as a "temp agency", putting companies in touch with temporary executives tailored to their needs.

The scheme is being run jointly with Inbucan, the management consultants, which operates an expanding pool of about 600 specialists, including managing directors, sales managers and technolo-

gists. They will supply the executive temps through the CBI.

Speaking at a press conference in London, Mr Richard Price, employment affairs director of the CBI, said: "As a result of this service, companies and parts of companies will be better run, more efficient, and will reach out further, because there will be the right pay at the right time at the right cost to keep the business going."

GLC loses in Lords

Three Law Lords led by Lord Bridge of Harwich yesterday refused the GLC and four London boroughs leave to appeal to the Lords from rulings that they are not entitled to cross-examine witnesses or make submissions at a forthcoming inquiry into plans to close Marylebone Station.

The High Court and the Court of Appeal ruled there had been no procedural impropriety by the London

Regional Passengers Committee, which is holding the inquiry, in refusing them that right.

They said natural justice did not require the committee to permit cross-examination of all witnesses, although it may be permitted on particular topics.

The Law Lords ordered the GLC and Brent, Ealing, Harrow and Hillingdon to pay the hearing's costs.

'Softest' courts on traffic offences

By Clifford Webb
Motoring Correspondent

Motorists found guilty of identical traffic offences in Buckinghamshire, West Sussex and Berkshire can expect much heavier fines than in any other part of England and Wales. On the other hand, magistrates in Cumbria, West Glamorgan and Tyne and Wear are the most lenient.

Similar inconsistencies in the number of penalty points awarded and the time taken for cases to reach court were revealed yesterday after an investigation of nearly 8,000 court cases involving members of the Automobile Association.

Mr Olaf Lambert, the AA's director general, said: "The wide variations in the way motorists are being dealt with by our courts is so surprising that we have drawn our initial findings to the attention of the Home Office."

The toughest magistrates in careless driving cases were West Sussex, outer London and Bedfordshire where fines averaged over £72. That compared with under £50 in the most lenient counties of Hereford and Worcester, Kent and Merseyside.

Other examples of careless driving fines were Devon, £55, Greater Manchester £54, Inner London £53, Oxfordshire £60, Lancashire £62, Surrey £64, and West Yorkshire £58.

Penalty points awarded under the "totting-up" procedure leading to disqualification when they reach 12 were equally disparate. Bedfordshire courts imposed four or even five points in 57 per cent of careless driving cases. On the other hand, only 7 per cent of offenders in Kent and 9 per cent in Lancashire could expect so many points.

Killer acted in a replay of crime

A man, who took part in a police reconstruction of his crime, was given three life sentences at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Stephen Doyle posed as an innocent passer by when he helped detectives to replay the last minutes in the life of Glenys Coe, aged 27, a betting shop manageress he had raped and strangled.

Seven months later Doyle, aged 24, confessed when he was arrested after the rape of a girl aged 16, Mr Anthony Hacking, QC, for the prosecution, said.

As Doyle, a ceiling fixer, of Boul Road, Laindon, Basildon, Essex, was led away, his elder sister Donna, who listened to the case, wept and said: "He should be hanged."

In 1979 Doyle was jailed for four years for stabbing Donna 18 times when she caught him rifling the gas meter.

He admitted murdering Miss Coe and raping her in the car park at Guildford Railway Station on August 30, 1984, and raping the schoolgirl on March 1 last year in Laindon.

Mr Justice Webster described Doyle as a "danger to the public" and said two consultant psychiatrists had examined him and found nothing mentally wrong.

Doyle, bespectacled and flanked by four prison officers, was told by the judge that his offences were "quite horrifying" and he exhibited "a high degree of criminality".

Mr Hacking said Doyle probably attacked Miss Coe because she surprised him late at night as he broke into a Jaguar car. He intended stealing the vehicle for a "joyride".

Miss Coe lived opposite the station car park and was taking her sheepdog Tara for a walk when Doyle grabbed her. At the time Doyle was living at a Guildford hotel and working on a contract redecorating a shop. Police interviewed him in connection with the killing and he "hoodwinked" them by making a false statement of his movements. Mr Hacking said.

Coronary warning to women

Women were yesterday given a warning that heart disease can kill them just as surely as it kills men.

Professor John Catford, head of Britain's first Department of Health Education and Promotion at the University of Wales in Cardiff, said more than 70,000 women died every year from coronary heart disease in the UK.

Professor Catford said in Boston during a study tour that while young men were more prone to heart disease than young women, the overall number of deaths from heart disease was only a little lower in women than in men.

Professor Catford said a 3 per cent rise in heart disease rate among women might be the result of increased smoking and less physical exercise. "It is much easier for a man to go jogging than it is for a woman."

Murder and rape trial

A man accused of murdering Jacqueline Murray, a prostitute, in Park Lane, London, last November, was yesterday sent for trial at the Central Criminal Court on 13 counts, including four of rape.

Seven new charges of robbery, stealing cars and having a firearm with intent to endanger life were added when the man, aged 22, appeared at Bow Street Magistrates' Court.

School survey on vandalism

Thousands of schoolchildren in the North-east will contribute to a survey on school vandalism and theft, which cost £360,000 in Newcastle upon Tyne last year.

The North-east Regional Schools Security Group, consisting of officials from schools, police and fire brigades, has prepared a questionnaire for students, aged five to 18, who will not have to reveal their identities.

Charges lifted against riot journalist

By Craig Seton

A freelance journalist who claimed he was beaten by police while working for *The Times Educational Supplement* during the Huddersfield riots was awarded £1,000 costs yesterday when a charge of threatening behaviour was dropped at Birmingham Magistrates' Court.

Mr Howard Sharron, aged 32, of King's Heath, Birmingham, had been told to photograph headteachers. He was knocked over and stamped on by youths who had been storming police. Mr Ian Young, his solicitor, said: "The disturbing aspect is that he was assaulted with truncheons while offering no evidence and was arrested after others told the police that he was a bona fide journalist covering the riot."

Mr Sharron said he would sue over the incident.

Health expert denies salt is bad for you

Government-backed guidelines for reducing salt consumption are "based on erroneous judgements", a leading expert in hypertension said yesterday.

The guidelines were contained in a report published last year, but its conclusions were based on references which, on scrutiny, proved irrelevant and drawn from unreliable data, Professor John Swales, of Leicester Royal Infirmary, said.

The report by the National Advisory Committee for Nutritional Education (NACNE) concluded that reducing salt intake would lower blood pressure and could do no harm, assumptions not supported by Professor Swales.

"Severe salt restriction could reduce the capacity to survive bleeding from trauma, surgery or accidents, for example," he said.

Aviemore centre in £1m sale deal

By Ronald Faux

The Aviemore Centre, the tourist and leisure complex in the Scottish Highlands which was losing £500,000 a year, is to be sold soon by the House of Fraser to the Red Sticks organization in a £1 million deal.

The centre was opened 20 years ago and comprises chalet motels, an ice rink, a swimming pool, discotheques, a night club and a conference centre on a 100-acre site. But it was regarded as too down-market. If the deal is agreed the Sticks organization is likely to aim for a more exclusive clientele.

The Glasgow-based com-

pany is one of the largest hotel, restaurant and casino chains in Britain. It has a large investment in the Speyside area and successfully runs the Cullinstown Hotel near Aviemore. Recently the company brought Aviemore back within the Aviemore Centre, for £750,000.

With the summer attractions of the Spey valley and the expanding ski industry on Cairngorm the belief is that Aviemore has great potential as a year-round resort, given proper marketing.

The centre was the brainchild of the late Lord Fraser

of Allender who led the attempt to establish an all-season resort in the highlands. He was one of the original partners and the architect for the scheme was Mr John Poulson. It was taken over by the House of Fraser and while the Spey valley prospered and the centre became internationally well known it was never able to generate the revenue that had been hoped for. Three years ago the centre was offered on the market for £3 million which was considered unrealistically high. Recently the 240-strong workforce was cut by a third.

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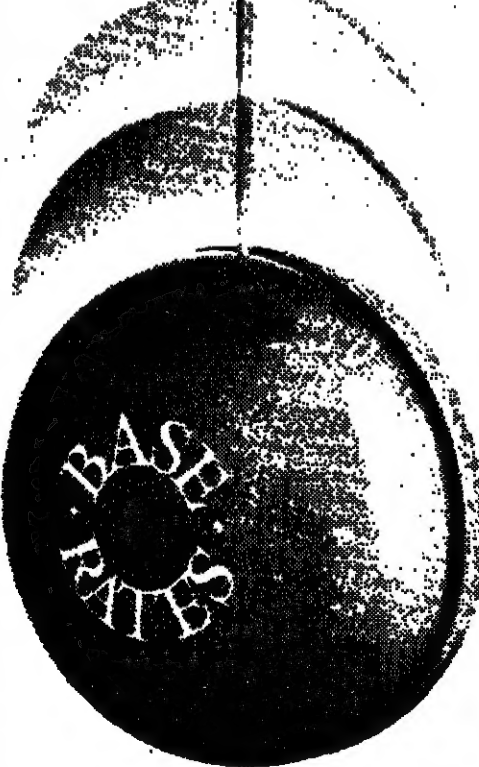
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PARLIAMENT JANUARY 30, 1986

Prime Minister in clash over Brittan

WESTLAND

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, clashed with Simon Hughes (Southwark and Bermondsey, L) over whether the Department of Trade and Industry officials should give evidence to the Commons defence select committee over the Westland affair.

During question time Mr Hughes said that, like unemployment, the credibility of the Prime Minister had reached an all-time high with 56 per cent of people not believing her explanation given during the debate on the Westland affair on Monday.

Could she tell us (he said) if she or her officials were consulted about the decision to prohibit three senior officials of the Department of Trade and Industry from giving evidence to the defence select committee?

If she authorized that prohibition, does she intend to make sure that no civil servants speak to officers and members of this House?

Will she cover up for what she has done, or will she let her civil servants tell the truth even if she cannot?

Mrs Thatcher: I set out in my own speech on Monday the full circumstances. (Labour cries of "No!") I pointed out that the accuracy of the statement was checked with all concerned.

That is what Mr Hughes does not like and cannot get over. Of course, the Government wishes to co-operate with select committees.

Those officials who advise on policy (she continued) and are, therefore, in a position to help the defence select committee's work on the defence implications of the Westland affair, have co-operated fully and will continue to do so.

The committee's request for private secretaries and other staff to give evidence has major implications for the conduct of the Government and for relations between ministers and their private offices, which will need to be thought about further.

Mrs Thatcher added: We shall be in touch with the committee and shall, of course, give any requests proper consideration. Maybe Labour MPs will remember the time when the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster under a Labour government refused to appear before a select committee.

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal party, said the answer the Prime Minister had given to Mr Hughes had serious implications for the conduct of business in the House.

She would recall that in her two statements she had laid great stress on the future inquiries by the defence select committee. Mrs Thatcher had no right to place any letter on anyone's desk without it being read.

Mrs Thatcher: Of course the government want to co-operate with the select committee. Those officials who advise on policy and are therefore in a position to help the defence select committee's work on the defence implications of the Westland affair have co-operated fully and will continue to do so.

Civil servants are either required to tell the truth or to give evidence before that committee.

on policy or to the Head of the Civil Service.

Mr Robin Maxwell-Hyslop (Tiverton, C) said that when the Prime Minister was looking into precedents on select committees, ministers and officials, she should reflect her memory at the circumstances in which the then Attorney General, Mr Sam Squire, refused to appear before a trade and industry committee looking into the recovery operation following the crash of Chrysler. That was an interesting precedent.

Mrs Thatcher: I do not have details of what occurred in June 1976 when the then Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster had received an invitation from the trade and industry committee to attend and give evidence on public expenditure on Chrysler.

He went on to say that the then Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, who had direct ministerial responsibility for this, was to give evidence on behalf of the whole government and so he would decline to give evidence before that committee.



Hughes: Was Mrs Thatcher consulted?

A total of 5,000 British servicemen and women would take part in Operation Saffar in Oman later this year, Mr John Stalker, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, disclosed when opening the debate in the Commons on the Army. This would make it the largest out-of-area exercise for many years and should prove of great value.

He gave details of improvements to the Army's equipment, emphasizing that there had been no let-up in the modernization of nuclear and conventional forces by Warsaw Pact countries on the western front.

Turning to terrorism he said it had increasingly assumed an international dimension and in Northern Ireland took on a most sophisticated form. Last year 522 charges were brought relating to terrorism; 227 weapons were found; and nearly seven tonnes of explosives discovered.

He praised the work of bomb disposal and search teams in saving lives, property, and jobs from destruction. They had dealt with over 200 devices, one of which contained 1,600 lbs of explosives.

Mr Dennis Davies, chief Opposition spokesman on defence and disarmament, said there would inevitably be a decline in the total defence budget and there was a great danger of cuts falling on the Army. The Government might well find itself in the ridiculous position of cutting front line defence and expenditure on weapons of first resort while spending was described as a weapon of last resort.

The Labour Party would get rid of Trident and, by doing so, believed it would be possible to maintain conventional defence spending. Labour would also retain the British Army of the Rhine.

The Ministry of Defence had not shown much basic in decision as to what kind of helicopters it wanted for the Army and other Services. Was the matter being studied at all? The Army needed two or three different kinds of helicopter, some to blow up tanks and others to carry troops and heavy equipment. This government had failed to have a proper policy in relation to the kind of helicopters the Services required.

The government lacked an industry policy or did not

know whether it wanted one. If it had such a proper industry policy the Westland problem would not have arisen in the way it did.

Labour had expressed the support for the European package not because of any rabid anti-Americanism but because there was a real problem for Britain's defence industries. Britain's industrial base could probably be better protected by having some collaborative projects with European countries instead of risking being gobbled up by the United States.

One of these days the government will have to decide how it is going to afford all the different roles.

The only logical way was to cancel Trident and concentrate on conventional defence. Mr Anthony Back (Colchester, North, C) said that what was needed now in defence was a period of quietude. They were at the end of the automatic increase of 3 per cent in real terms - the NATO agreement which the government had honoured to the full. There would be a fight for limited resources and they looked to the new Defence Secretary to ensure that they were kept within reasonable bounds.

Unionist MPs stage walkout

ULSTER

Newly re-elected Ulster Unionist MPs walked out of the Commons at the start of the first question time on Northern Ireland since the 15 by-elections in the Province.

Mr Martin Plummer (Sheffield Hillsborough, Lab) reacted to their action by saying: Do not the antics of the Unionists in coming in and walking out and acting as they mean they have had their own way for so long that when it comes to arguing their case they suddenly refuse to discuss it with us?

They feel themselves in a defensive and weak position and events have overtaken them.

Mr Tony King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland: I do not underestimate the strength of feeling in the Province about the genuine concern Unionists have about it. That is more reason for recognizing the importance of discussions and talking about that situation. Simply nothing will be achieved by abstention and absenting themselves. Parliament is here and this is the role of Parliament and I hope sensible discussions can take place.

Earlier, Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne, C) said if the Government had believed the Anglo-Irish agreement would have been entered into. Why then was it right to proceed with it when the Government knew it was deeply opposed by the majority?

Mr King: I am aware and have never concealed that there is great concern among the majority community, some of whom are instinctively opposed to any closer cooperation with the Government of the Irish Republic. It will be our determination to make sure there is a better understanding of the benefits the agreement can bring. Benefits can come from closer cross-border co-

operation and there were significant changes in the Nationalist vote in the recent by-elections.

Mr Mervyn Rees (Leeds South and Morley, Lab): If, despite the Government's attempts and in the light of the election results which were geared to the November agreement, the majority of the people in Ulster were determined to go for independence, what would the Government do?

Mr King: The whole House would recognize what a most unfortunate course that would be. We remain willing, ready and anxious to talk to representatives of the majority community. They cannot complain about lack of consultation when they refuse to enter into any dialogue whatsoever.

Will she (he asked) give the same promise now?

Mrs Thatcher: I am the first to admit that after several months of falling unemployment, the unemployment figures published are deeply disappointing.

But just as we do not claim last year's figures were not a reverse of the trend when they were better, so it is too early to say that two months' figures indicate that unemployment is rising again. The number of

people in work has increased by 700,000 since March 1983. Mr Kinneir: She must know that her claim about 700,000 is invalid. Even the Bank of England system of calculations demonstrates that the number of jobs in terms of full-time equivalents has fallen.

Is not the truth that the Prime Minister does not know how to get unemployment down and does not care about it, if she did she would not allow it to go on and on all the time?

Mrs Thatcher: We shall only create more wealth and, therefore, more jobs by creating more work to sell competitively in the markets of the world. That is the only way.

The best indication of the growth of jobs that is given by the Department of Employment's official count over three months.

On the Bank's adjustment which refers to full-time equivalents... (Labour interruptions) Yes (she went on) many of the jobs have been part-time, and what is wrong with that?

The bank's adjustment based on the assumption about full-time employment equivalent is inevitably uncertain.

Thatcher backs Times move to Wapping

THE PRESS

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said in the Commons she wished Mr Peter Thorneycroft (Bolton North East, C) who had asked her to support the move of the Times newspaper to Wapping, to support the move.

She made this statement during question time in reply to Mr Peter Thorneycroft (Bolton North East, C) who had asked her to support the move of the Times newspaper to Wapping.

She said everyone was entitled to take full advantage of the law, including the trade unions.

Sir Edward Gardner (Fylde, C): The Labour leader's boycott of all journalists is outrageous.

Mrs Thatcher: I agree with him.

Mr George Gardner (Reigate, C): Will she make arrangements to transport the Leader of the Opposition and his entire front bench to join the picket line at Wapping to thereby ensure every worker crosses the picket line?

Mrs Thatcher: That is an excellent question.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walston, Lab): On this day when the highest levels of unemployment ever known have been recorded due to this Government's policies, it will not go unnoticed by the people of this country that, when the printers unions have taken a stance to protect jobs - with 6,000 more jobs at stake - that the Conservative benches cheered to echo the man Murdoch and the anti-trade union legislation fully brought into operation and supported by the Prime Minister in order to create more unemployment and not less. That is the truth of the situation.

Mrs Thatcher: I totally reject what he has said. Industry under the policies of this Government has been able to become thoroughly competitive. If not, we should have lost whole industries and the unemployment position would have been infinitely worse.

Restrictive practices and over-manning do not save jobs they lead to the loss of infinitely more jobs in the end.

The decision by the Labour Party and TUC to boycott News International journalists was the subject of further questions to Mr John Biffen, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House, following his announcement of Commons business for next week.

Mr Harry Greenwood (Ealing North, C) asked if he would arrange an early debate on the freedom of the press, particularly taking into account the attitude current to it by the Labour Party and the TUC.

Mr Biffen: He set out a very attractive proposition for the use of Government time. The problem at present is that there is very little Government time available for these various debates, but I will continue to bear these matters in mind.

Mr Tony Baldry (Banbury, C) asked if Mr Biffen would give the Opposition time to explain why the Labour Party wished to ban contact with *The Times* and *The Sun*.

Mr Biffen: Did that mean under a future Labour government, he added. Mr Biffen: I quite understand, but he is asking me to make time available when it is already available. There is an Opposition day next week, and we will judge how they wish to use it.

Mr Harry Ewing (Falkirk East, Lab) asked during questions about Commons business for next week whether either of the two members of the Cabinet who recently resigned had been able to retain ministerial cars and drivers.

If this is the case (he went on), could the Leader of the House, arrange for the responsible minister to come here next week and make a statement indicating under what circumstances this is taking place and who is paying?

Mr Biffen: If he would like to write to me setting out the situation, I will have the matter looked at.

Plea to Ireland

It was a matter of the greatest importance and of considerable urgency that the Irish Government should accede to the European convention on the suppression of terrorism. Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said.

Milk ban reversed

The Government has reversed its ban on the sale of untreated or "green top" milk in order to encourage tourism.

Mr John Gummer, Minister of State for Agriculture, announced in a Commons written answer.

Visitors to farms would be able to buy untreated milk again by the summer provided the farmer is registered and tells them what they are doing.

Mr Gummer said: I have

been struck during my visits to farms, particularly in the West Country, that many tourists want to drink untreated milk during farm holidays. They must be told what they are drinking but it seems wholly unreasonable to make it impossible to drink farm milk with the family when you are staying on a farm.

We are, however, insistent that people must know when green top milk is sold or served.

PM disappointed with jobless total

UNEMPLOYMENT

The Prime Minister admitted during Commons questions that after several months of falling unemployment, the unemployment figures just published were deeply disappointing. But she felt the figures did not necessarily indicate that unemployment was rising again.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, had said that unemployment today had reached 3.4 million, the highest figure ever. When unemployment was at 1.1 million in 1979 the Prime Minister had confidently promised that she would reduce it.

Will she (he asked) give the same promise now?

Mrs Thatcher: I am the first to admit that after several months of falling unemployment, the unemployment figures published are deeply disappointing.

But just as we do not claim last year's figures were not a reverse of the trend when they were better, so it is too early to say that two months' figures indicate that unemployment is rising again. The number of

people in work has increased by 700,000 since March 1983. Mr Kinneir: She must know that her claim about 700,000 is invalid. Even the Bank of England system of calculations demonstrates that the number of jobs in terms of full-time equivalents has fallen.

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The bank's adjustment based on the assumption about full-time employment equivalent is inevitably uncertain.

Today's unemployment figures, the highest ever on record, warranted a full debate in Government time, and well before the budget. Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, said during Commons questions about next week's Commons business.

We know (he went on) that the Employment Secretary cannot speak in such a debate because he is in the House of Lords. Will such a debate take place, and will the Prime Minister speak in it?

Mr John Biffen, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House, said no provision was in prospect for a debate on unemployment in Government time.

Mr Allan Roberts (Boole, Lab) said everyone in the country would greet with disbelief Mr Biffen's statement that it was not the Government's duty to provide time for a debate on the unemployment it had itself created.

Youth unemployment in areas like Merseyside was providing the opportunity for teenagers to be easy prey to drug-pushers.

Mr Biffen said it was hardly surprising there should be no provision for such a debate in Government time when the House would shortly move into a period which would be dominated by the Budget.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab) said unemployment was a matter for the government of the day. Was this Government afraid to debate it because it had no answers to the question?

Could not Mr Biffen reconsider his earlier answer so that the House could hear what the Government proposed to do to bring down the level of unemployment, the highest ever known in this country?

Mr Biffen said he had nothing to add to his reply.

Alliance chooses man for Fulham

By Stephen Goodwin Political Staff

Mr Roger Liddle, leader of the Alliance group on Lambeth Council, has been chosen to fight the forthcoming Fulham by-election for the Social Democrats.

The Alliance hopes for a good showing in the former Conservative seat in what will be the first test of electoral opinion since the start of the Westland affair.

Mr Liddle, aged 39, is a founder member of the SDP and contested the nearby Vauxhall constituency in the 1983 General Election. He was chosen from a shortlist of seven prominent Social Democrats in a secret postal ballot of SDP and Liberal constituency party members.

Mr Liddle worked in the electricity supply industry before becoming special adviser to Mr William Rodgers when he was Labour's Minister of Transport. He now works in the SDP's public policy centre, on economic and social initiatives.

IBA win in image case

Mr Norris McWhirter yesterday lost a High Court fight to take criminal proceedings against the Independent Broadcasting Authority, over the use of subliminal images on the satirical *Spitting Image* show.

Mr McWhirter, aged 59, the editor of the *Guinness Book of Records*, complained of a "grotesque and ridiculing image of my face superimposed on the top of the body of a naked woman".

He said the quarter-second shot was not visible to the ordinary viewer but exploited the subconscious mind. He claimed this was a criminal offence under the Broadcasting Act 1981.

But Lord Justice Lloyd, sitting with Mr Justice Skinner in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court, said no criminal offence was created by the Act, which did not prohibit the inclusion of subliminal images in terms, but a duty was imposed on the IBA to be satisfied that no such images were included.

He quashed the summons taken out by Mr McWhirter at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court and prohibited all further proceedings.

The shot was seen by Mr McWhirter's nephew, aged 15, using a freeze-frame button on a video recorder.

Outside the court, Mr McWhirter, who is backed by the Freedom Association, said he planned to take the matter to the House of Lords.

Although the two judges refused him leave to appeal, and ordered him to pay costs, he will go directly to the House. "It is a matter of profound constitutional importance. I think brainwashing and activities of this kind are something which should be suppressed and something, as a private citizen, I want suppressed."

"Subliminal messages are deceitful and I want them stopped. They are profoundly dangerous. When my nephew saw it, he said, 'Look, there is Uncle Norris'. I have not yet met the model my face was superimposed on, but you never know I might in the future."

The time bomb ticking away

RURAL AREAS

An Alliance motion expressing concern about recent cuts in rural areas would lead to unacceptable rate increases and endorsing NFU warnings about the collapse of British farm income was rejected in the Commons on Wednesday night by 262 votes to 146 - Government majority, 116.

A Government amendment welcoming various Government measures designed to

check the decline in rural bus services, initiative on conservation and the rural economy, was agreed to.

Mr David Penhaligon (Turro, L) said the lobby at the House by the farmers that typified the problems facing rural areas. These areas were green and pleasant lands with some picturesque cottages. But there was high unemployment and low pay which in turn created housing problems. The time bomb ticking away in rural communities was the massive erosion of farming.

Small cottage hospitals were being closed and there was only a semblance of transport services in some rural areas.

Mrs Angela Rumbold, Under Secretary of State for Environment, said the rate support grant settlement was a recognition of the undoubted needs of inner cities but involved a shift of only 2 per cent over the grant paid to shire areas. Any reduction was unwelcome but she did not agree that in consequence the dire predictions that Mr Penhaligon had made would ensue.

Clerical pay review

Wage bill up to 40% lower in North and Midlands

By Colin Hughes

Companies based in London could slash up to 40 per cent off their pay costs by moving to the North and Midlands, according to a survey published yesterday.

Average salaries for secretaries in central London offices are now £7,900 a year, against £5,700 a year in Nottingham and Derby. Telephonists receive an average £6,900 a year in London, but £4,775 in the Midlands.

The *Clerical and Operative Reward Survey*, published by Reward Regional Surveys, shows that clerical staff in London are paid 30 per cent above the national average, while in Yorkshire the figure is 8 per cent below. "Add to that the difference in property costs, and it is hard to see why office-based companies remain in the capital", the survey says.

Pay rose by 7.5 per cent last year for clerical and shop-floor workers, nearly 2 per cent above the rate of inflation. With tax gains

added in the survey says, those in work are on average nearly 3 per cent better off.

The increase in holiday time and cut in working hours have both begun to level out over the past year. A decade ago the average shop-floor worker was receiving £1.25 an hour for a 45-hour week, but is now receiving £3.31 an hour for 39 hours.

"In general there has been a steady reversion in clerical hours, but the movement is one of steady attrition, rather than a dramatic change."

The survey, which covered 250,000 workers in 612 companies, found that skilled shop workers have done better than most over the past year, with average pay increases of more than 9 per cent. The average clerical worker receives £11 a week, and factory workers receive an average £130.

A separate survey published yesterday by Manpower Ltd predicted that

nearly two million people will be working in temporary jobs this year.

If the annual growth rate in temporary working continues at the pace of the last three years, about 11 per cent, around one in 12 of all working people will be temporary by the end of this year.

"This is more, even, than the increase in computer employment, often cited as the fastest growing sector."

Mr Ken Davidson, Manpower's director of human resources, said.

Although one in three temporary workers are seeking permanent jobs, 27 per cent are pursuing temporary work as a permanent lifestyle. Manpower's study is based on figures contained in *Temporary Work in Great Britain*, Labour Market Quarterly Report, published by the Manpower Services Commission in November last year.

Clerical and Operative Rewards, published by Reward Regional Surveys, 1, Mill Street, Stone, Staffordshire.

Nine face Telecom charges

Scotland Yard has said that nine men are to be prosecuted for allegedly contravening the rules of the British Telecom shares flotation.

Summons for offences ranging from attempted criminal deception to conspiracy have been issued against the nine.

The summonses are returnable to Bow Street Magistrates' Court, London, in March.

The prosecutions come after an investigation by fraud squad officers from the Metropolitan and City of London forces after the £4 billion privatization of British Telecom in November 1984.

Share applications to the public were limited to 800 a person as part of the Government's campaign to encourage small shareholders. Would-be investors were warned that they could be prosecuted if they submitted more than one application.

Inquiries showed that many people ignored the rules and made multiple applications.



Gloomy Budget for the Irish

From Richard Ford, Dublin

The Irish Government has heralded a year of austerity with a Budget aimed at improving the republic's finances. Smokers, drinkers and motorists were hit hard.

Increases in VAT and excise duties mean that from March the cost of a pint of Guinness will be £1.16, a small whiskey 97p, a gallon of petrol £2.71 and 20 cigarettes £1.63.

In Wednesday's budget, which Mr Alan Dukes, Minister for Finance, said was designed to avoid having an overall deflationary impact on the economy, the Government attempted to shift some of the burden of taxation from direct to indirect taxes.

The standard 20 per cent VAT was increased by 2 per cent.

Mr Dukes abolished a 1 per cent levy on all income, widened the standard 35 per cent tax band to ease the burden for middle income earners and reduced the top tax rate from 60 to 58 per cent to ease workers' overall tax burden.

Now 12,000 people will no longer pay tax and 191,000 will pay lower rate tax. He increased social welfare benefits by 5 per cent for the long term unemployed and 4 per cent for others.

In his budget statement, Mr Dukes estimated that the inflation rate in 1986 would be 4.5 per cent and the current budget deficit £1,230 million or 7.4 per cent of GNP with the overall exchange rate requirement at £12,001 million or 11.8 per cent of GNP.

Mr Dukes said the slower than expected growth in the economy and in employment during 1985 meant the budget had to be one that would not depress the economy but it was necessary to reduce the deficit and tackle the black economy.

The budget was received in almost total silence by government backbenchers who had been warned that there would be little scope for major reductions in taxation which most observers accept will be the crucial issue in the next general election.

Father of boy shot in bed is jailed for robbery

From Tim Jones, Swansea

A man whose son, aged five, was accidentally shot dead during a police search was yesterday jailed for five years for armed robbery.

John Shorthouse, aged 26, of Barratts Road, King's Norton, Birmingham, admitted robbing Mr Norman Aubrey of £180 and two cheques at his Old Moat Restaurant, Kidwelly, Dyfed.

Passing sentence at Swansea Crown Court, Mr Justice Tudor Price said he would have jailed him for nine years but for the death of his son and his guilty plea.

Mr Anthony Evans, QC, the defence, said Shorthouse realized his son could not have died had he been involved in the robbery. "He is never going to be able to forgive himself."

Two other gang members were also jailed. Stephen Herbert, aged 28, of Walker's Heath Road, King's Norton, received four years after admitting robbery and possessing a shotgun.

Jonathan Williams, aged 35, of Fifth Drive, Yardley Wood, Birmingham, had denied the robbery and shotgun

Ministry's lies led to pig deaths

By Richard Evans

A farmer is to receive £7,500 compensation from the Ministry of Agriculture after deliberate deceit and "unreasonable secretiveness" by its officials contributed to the death of more than 100 pigs.

In a highly critical report published yesterday, Mr Anthony Barrowclough, the parliamentary ombudsman, said the ministry acted in a high-handed manner and lied, causing the farmer "considerable personal upset."

The ombudsman upheld the man's complaint that the ministry had deliberately withheld information from him while investigating a suspected outbreak of Aujeszky's disease on his farm, including telling a deliberate lie about results of tests on his animals.

The disease is caused by a herpes virus and affects pigs. The farmer only found out unofficially that all but two of his herd had been cleared.

As a result the farmer, mistakenly thinking his entire herd was soon to be destroyed, stopped feeding the pigs specially treated food to prevent stomach disorders. Two weeks later a dysentery outbreak resulted in the death of 106 pigs.

The ministry has formally apologized to the farmer.



An ESPCA marksman (right) preparing to shoot a badly oiled swan after vandals discharged 2,000 gallons of oil into the River Tweed at Berwick. At least 60 swans were beyond saving and destroyed.

Dalglish wins libel damages

Kenny Dalglish, the Liverpool manager and Scotland footballer, yesterday won undisclosed libel damages in the High Court over a newspaper article, which linked him with an agent's activities in the transfer of players.

By falsely stating that Mr Dalglish was one of the players involved with Mr Frank Boyd, doubt was cast on his suitability to hold a position of trust and responsibility, Mr Justice Leonard was told.

It was also a grave reflection on his integrity, Mr Richard Rampton, counsel for Mr Dalglish, said he was not employed by Mr Boyd, had never been a director of Mr Boyd's company, Media Star Management.

He sued Mirror Group Newspapers complaining about the article in the Northern edition of the *Daily Mirror* in March, 1985.

Mr Edward Garnier, counsel for the *Mirror*, said they never intended their article to cast any adverse reflection.

The statements they made about him were based both on information given to them by Mr Boyd and upon newspaper sent to them by Mr Boyd which erroneously recorded that Mr Dalglish was a director of one of Mr Boyd's companies.

Demand for more spending on mains repairs

By Hugh Clayton

Environment Correspondent

Much more spending will be needed on old water mains to avoid crises such as the recent burst in Leeds, leading water researchers said yesterday.

Mr Peter Lofthouse, chairman of the Water Authorities Association, said that present spending of £60 million a year on repairing mains was far too low.

He was speaking at the start of a campaign by water authorities and the Water Research Centre to find and repair corroded mains. Mr David Field, Director of Engineering at the centre, said that most cases of bad tastes and smells in water were

caused by faults in householders' plumbing. But the 100,000 complaints a year about low pressure and discoloured water from the taps usually resulted from corrosion in public mains pipes.

Housing is blamed for job losses

By Christopher Warman

Property Correspondent

Scotland's high proportion of council housing has led to unemployment and immobility of labour, according to a study published today by Aims of Industry, the free enterprise organization.

It has led to a vicious circle in which subsidized low rent policies have increased the rate burden. "This has placed an extra burden on business, which has frequently led to closure or relocation and has, in turn, discouraged new firms from moving in. In turn, even more people became unemployed," Rachel Tingle, the author, says.

While home ownership in England is more than 60 per cent, figures for Scotland show that 37 per cent of homes were owner-occupied, 9 per cent privately rented, and 53 per cent council-owned.

The most serious problem associated with Scotland's council housing was "the ensuing immobility of labour - and this has serious consequences for the whole Scottish economy. In a period of rapid economic change, high labour mobility is essential if Scotland is to achieve the economic growth and prosperity of which she is capable."

The study, *Housing and Mobility in Scotland*, calls for an acceleration in the sale of council houses, encouragement for the refurbishment and sale of vandalized council property, and reform of the regulations for the private rented sector.

Heather plant move to heath

Hampstead Heath in west London, the first area of common land preserved for the public since 1871, is to undergo a transplant operation after the disbandment of the Greater London Council's conservation team. An acre of heather of the ling variety, *Calluna vulgaris*, is to be transferred to the highland of Parliament Hill from the Forestry Commission land in Surrey.

EEC told to act on cereal glut

By John Young

Agriculture Correspondent

EEC farm ministers must have the courage to act now to avoid a crisis arising from the massive cereals surplus, Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, said yesterday.

Speaking at an international seminar in Berlin, he said that, failing a new initiative of some kind, the expected growth in production had no chance of finding an outlet.

Attempts to find new industrial uses for cereals or to expand traditional outlets were not enough to solve the problem.

There were two ways of tackling the situation: production could be physically controlled, creating an enormous structure of bureaucratic interference and denying consumers the benefits of lower prices, or the industry could be more exposed to market forces.

"I hear the objection that this will lead to the collapse of an essential ingredient of our society because of its effect on rural life," Mr Jopling continued. "I frankly do not believe that it is an essential element of any country's life to live by producing goods that nobody wants to buy."

There was also a need to examine more critically the notion that a main aim of European agricultural policy should be to favour small scale family farms.

New laws urged to save small farms

Legislation may be necessary to protect the decline of small family farms in Britain which are the lifeblood of the countryside, Sir Richard Butler, President of the National Farmers' Union said yesterday (the Press Association reports).

Special help is needed to enable small farmers to face up to pressures on the industry, he said, and some areas may need EEC legislation. That should deal with four areas: quotas, payment, taxation and structures.

49% of clergy will vote Alliance, poll shows

The image of the Church of England as the Tory Party at prayer suffers a further blow with the disclosure that nearly half the church's clergy intend to vote Liberal/SDP alliance at the next election.

In a Gallup Poll of 1,000 clergy published yesterday, 49 per cent said they would vote Alliance, 24 per cent Conservative and 13 per cent Labour.

The poll was conducted for the Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission on Urban Priority Areas, whose report *Faith in the City* was published yesterday.

In a sample of 402 clergy, 189 were interviewed, 189 were in inner city areas such as London, Birmingham, and Newcastle upon Tyne.

Inner city clergy, the survey found, were more satisfied with their ministry.

Marriage breakdowns were one of the problems they had to deal with in their parishes. Race relations came bottom of the list.

They reported an average Sunday attendance at their churches of 119 and average

giving a head of £1.60 a week.

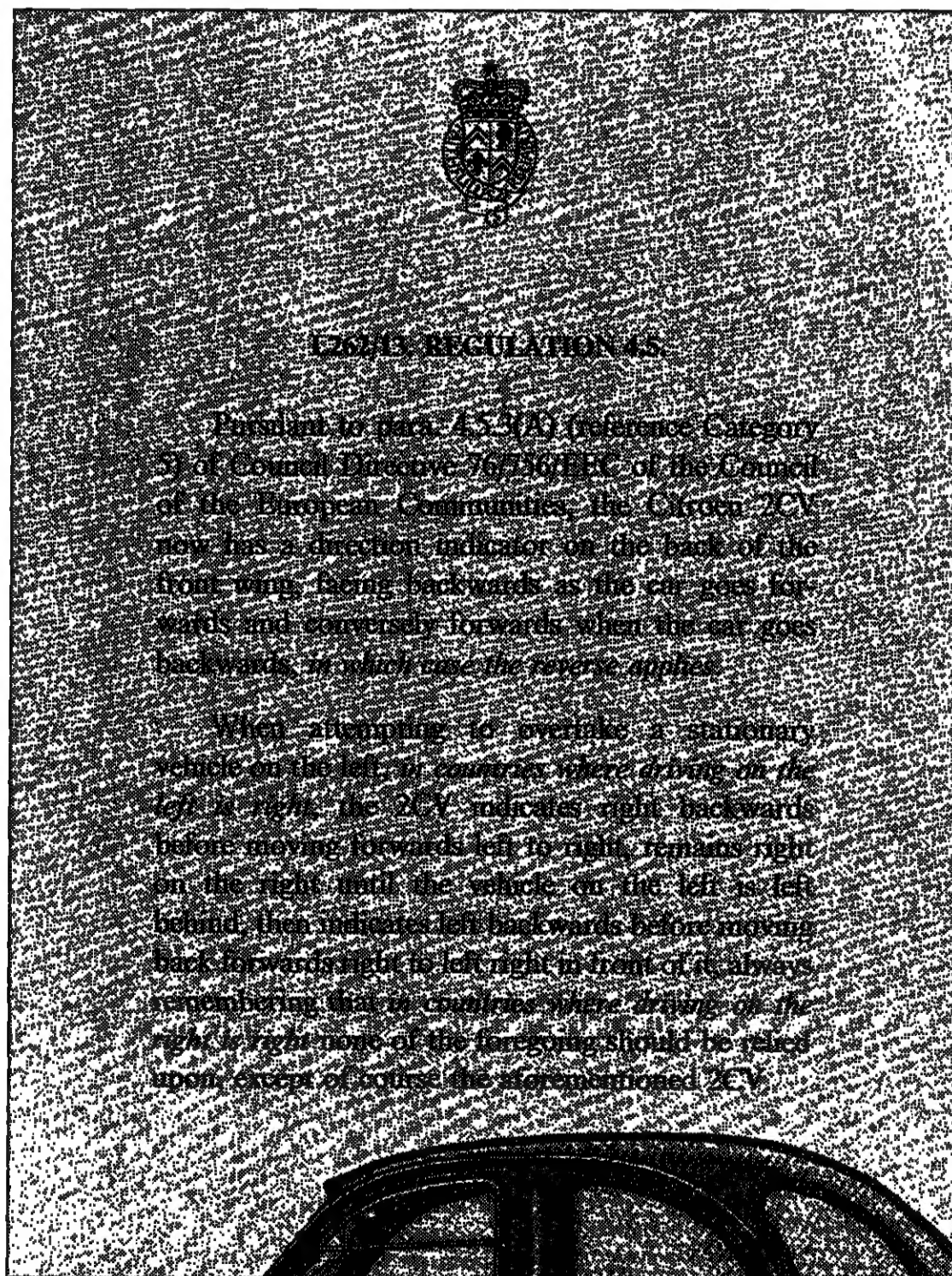
Evangelicals reported larger congregations than other clergy.

Because they were on relatively low incomes they were more dependent than other professionals on working wives. The poll showed that 22 per cent of clergy wives had full-time jobs and 24 per cent part-time.

Only 11 per cent of clergy listed personal problems of faith among their concerns. Inner city clergy listed fears of mugging, poor education for their children, vandalism, difficulty in leaving their house unoccupied, exhaustion and being outnumbered by people of other faiths and cultures among their concerns.

But despite their problems, 43% said they would encourage others "very strongly" to join the ordained ministry and 32% "quite strongly."

Gallup Survey of Church of England Clergymen (Church House Bookshop, Great Smith St, London SW1; £2.95).



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Court ruling threatens judge's inquiry into Chile police methods

From Lake Sagaris
Santiago

A decision by three judges of Chile's Supreme Court threatens to paralyse a judicial investigation into the murders of three opposition leaders which has created serious political problems for the military regime of President Pinochet.

In March last year the bodies of a teachers' union leader, a commercial artist and a worker in the Roman Catholic Church's human rights department were found in a field, virtually drained of blood with their throats slashed.

Judge José Cánovas's investigation has already led to the closure of a special police department dedicated to "anti-subversive" operations and the arrest of several high-ranking officers of the Carabineros police force.

In August, a member of the military junta, General Cesar Mendoza of the Carabineros, was forced to resign as a result of Judge Cánovas's findings. It caused bitter dispute in Chile's normally united armed forces.

But early last week, less than a month after 12 of the 13 members of the Supreme Court had a friendly lunch with General Pinochet, three Supreme Court judges ordered the release of two Carabineros colonels indicted by Judge Cánovas.

A Chilean journalist who specializes in the court system spoke for many when



President Pinochet fears of influence over judiciary

he concluded that "recent events confirm the evidence of the past 12 years: the judicial system does not function independently of the government".

A veteran political observer, Señor Fernando Paulsen, went one step further: the Supreme Court decision, he said, is part of the Government's strategy to remove a politically dangerous situation from the public domain of the courts.

From the start, the military Government denied any involvement in the Cánovas case, classifying it as criminal rather than political.

But, little by little, as Judge Cánovas has unwound the tangled threads of contradictory police reports, witnesses' testimony and circumstantial evidence, the structure and

modus operandi of Chile's security services has become increasingly apparent.

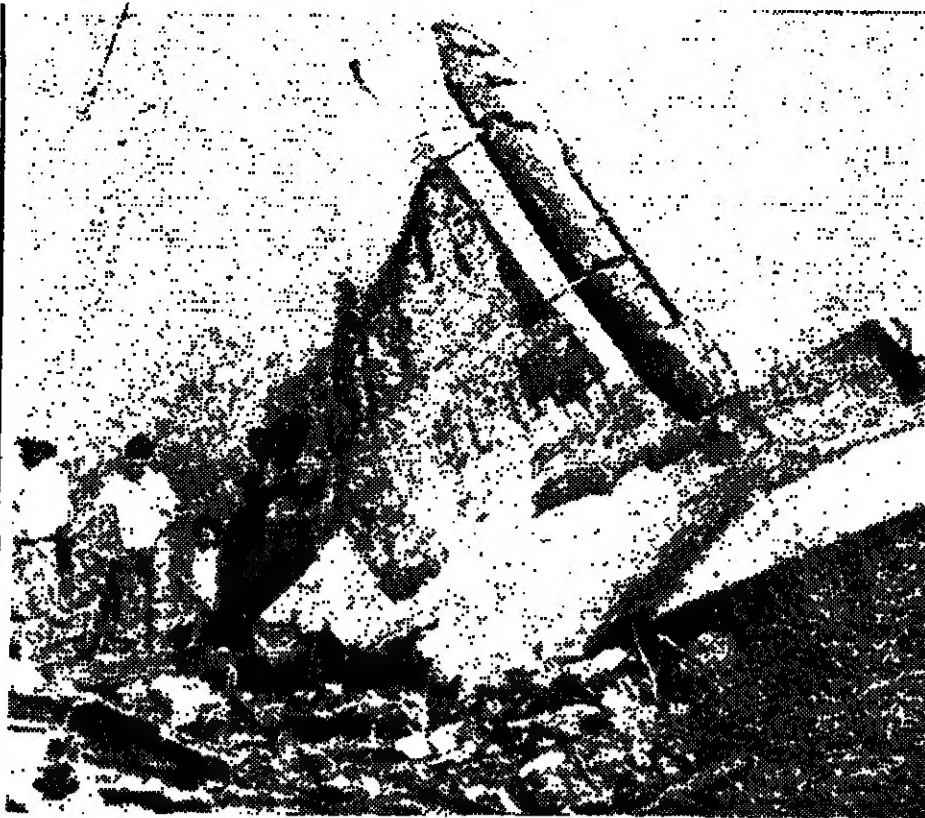
A hitherto hidden but bitter rivalry between the uniformed Carabineros and the political police became public knowledge when the latter provided Judge Cánovas with the names of Carabineros members involved in the killings.

The Cánovas case, as it has become known, has also opened the way for other investigations which have revealed to Chileans what many people abroad already knew: detail of the military's "dirty war" against opponents since it took power.

This month he finally found and ordered the arrest of one of the most feared political police informers, a former member of the communist youth organization, whose detention and betrayal of his colleagues led to their disappearance and probable death in 1976.

But this week Judge Cánovas was forced to order the release of the informer, Señor Miguel Estay (alias The Ghost) after the Supreme Court made its decision.

Unless the ruling is reversed, it will be very difficult for the judge finally to bring the culprits to justice, even though it is widely believed that his thorough investigation, which remains confidential under Chilean law, reveals their names and details of the crimes.



The tail section of an Aero California DC3 airliner on a hillside near Los Mochis city in Mexico, where it crashed on Wednesday, killing all 21 people on board.

Nine more counts against Tan

Singapore (AP) - The Malaysian financier and politician, Mr Tan Koon Swan, was charged in court here with nine additional counts of fraud and cheating involving the Pan-Electric Industries Ltd. conglomerate.

Mr Tan, aged 45, was charged last Thursday with six counts of abetting criminal breach of trust designed to "dishonestly dispose" of 5.6 million Singapore dollars (\$2.6 million) worth of assets in the Pan-Electric group. Mr Tan has pleaded not

guilty to all the charges, but he is free on bail of 40 million Singapore dollars (\$18.3 million). His case is scheduled to be heard later this year.

He now faces a total of 15 counts of fraud and deception, abetting criminal breach of trust and fraudulently manipulating the stock market involving assets worth about \$13.6 million.

He is charged under the Securities Industry Act and the Companies Act, which carry penalties of imprisonment and fines or both.

Mr Tan is president of the main ethnic Chinese political party, the Malaysian Chinese Association, the second largest party in Malaysia's National Front Coalition.

He is widely regarded as the most politically powerful and economically influential Chinese in Malaysia.

Trading in Pan-Electric shares was suspended on November 19. It was ordered into receivership by a court on November 30.

Euthanasia trial

Mass murder case takes gentle pace on doctors' orders

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

Throughout the coming months, and perhaps for the whole year, three men charged with being accessories to several thousand murders will appear in court in Frankfurt - but only once a week and then for only three hours at a time.

Despite the almost limitless seriousness of the charges, they have to be treated gently because of their age and health. They are in their seventies and all have infirmities of one kind or another.

Indeed, their physical conditions have kept them out of court for 20 years. It was 20 years ago that they first stood trial and ever since they have managed to produce doctors' certificates to show why further court appearances would put a strain on their health.

They are experts on such matters. They are themselves doctors - the three survivors of the medical team which in 1940 and 1941 allegedly carried out the euthanasia programme on Germany's insane and terminally ill.

Arraigned in Frankfurt on Wednesday were Dr Aquilin Ullrich, aged 71, Dr Heinrich Bunke, aged 71, and Dr Klaus Endrueit, aged 72. They stood trial for the same offences 20 years ago and were acquitted on the grounds that they did not know what they had done had been illegal.

Such a verdict was a denial of the post-Nuremberg morality which said an act was not legal simply because the state said it was the law or ordered a citizen or soldier to do it. The prosecution appealed against the acquittal and the federal high court ruled that the three must stand trial again.

For the next 20 years, they managed to get certificates of ill health from sympathetic members of their profession. On Wednesday, the defendant Dr Endrueit did not

appear. His lawyer said he had kidney and circulation trouble. Given his age, there is no reason to doubt it. But still, the willingness to help keep the three out of court reflects badly on the minority of the West German medical profession responsible for doing so. This sympathy for those who carried out the euthanasia programme goes back a long way.

The programme was carried out under the leadership of two doctors who were also vigorous Nazis: Dr Karl Brandt and Dr Werner Heyde. Brandt was hanged by the Americans in 1948 but Heyde escaped from American custody and was condemned to death *in absentia*.

He practised for years in Schleswig-Holstein under the name of Dr Fritz Swade, protected by other doctors and some of the regional health officials who knew who he really was. Thinking himself about to be discovered, Heyde gave himself up in 1959. He would no longer have been sentenced to death because he would have been tried by a West German court and the country had abolished capital punishment. But he killed himself a few days before his trial.

The euthanasia programme was carried out under a "Führer order" whereby people designated as "useless eaters" or those who had "an existence without a natural will to life" were put to death by carbon-monoxide poisoning. Relatives were told they had died from natural causes.

The programme is thought to have resulted in about 70,000 deaths. The victims were taken from psychiatric hospitals throughout Germany to three centres equipped for the purpose: Brandenburg, near Berlin; Bernburg, in the Saxe area, which is now in East Germany; and Pirna, Saxony, also now in East Germany.

Pledge by China on reporting

Hong Kong (Reuters) - A senior Chinese official promised press executives here yesterday that Hong Kong would retain press freedom after it reverted to China in 1997.

But Mr Lu Ping, Secretary General of China's Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, was also quoted as saying that Peking would not allow its sovereignty over the territory to be harmed.

"He said there would be press freedom on the major condition that its sovereignty should not be damaged," said Mr T. W. Leung of the Hong Kong News Executives Association.

Mr Robin Hutchison, chief editor of the *South China Morning Post*, said Mr Lu was told of fears of legal restrictions on reporting.

Police link killings by fingerprint

Paris (AFP) - Police have found a fingerprint to link six recent murders of lonely old women in Paris with a series of nine similar murders in the Montmartre area in 1984.

One police theory was that they had all been committed by the same killer - but they had no proof. Now the matching fingerprints could prove the theory.

The majority of victims were more than 80 years old. None was younger than 73. The series of murders in 1984, within a 1,000-yard radius of the Sacré Coeur cathedral, baffled police and no arrests were made.

A new series started at the end of last year. The old ladies were either strangled or suffocated. Only cash was taken.

Legal action threatened

Madrid plea on Goya masterpiece auction

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain has publicly appealed to Christie's, the auctioneers, not to go ahead with the planned sale of a 19th century masterpiece by the painter Francisco Goya. The Culture Ministry maintains that the documents offered to show its export had been legally approved are falsifications.

"We do not reckon a house with a reputation of Christie's will go ahead with auctioning a painting taken illegally out of Spain," Señor Miguel Sastrategui, secretary general at the ministry, said.

The Culture Ministry has been on the track of "The Marquesa de Santa Cruz", one of Goya's great mid-period paintings, dating from 1805, since the summer of 1983. It then alerted Interpol that the painting had been smuggled out of the country after being sold by the heirs of a Basque banker, going first apparently to the United States and then Britain.

"I just do not believe a painting sought by Interpol could be auctioned," Señor Sastrategui said, adding that the Government intends to take legal action where necessary to recover the masterpiece. The possibilities of international co-operation are good, he said.

Three people, including the former owners, had proceedings opened against them in 1983 before a Madrid court. Under Spain's Protection of the National Patrimony Law, passed by Parliament last summer, any works of art more than 100 years old discovered being exported without the approval of a special expert board become

the property of the state. Fines of up to £500,000 can be imposed for illegal exports.

But even under the previous law dating from the 1930s, approval for export was required and Señor Sastrategui said that authorization for the Goya painting had never been sought. The senior official at the Culture Ministry who raised the alarm in 1983, after an anonymous claim that the painting was in America, and who said he had seen the export documents, described them as "bogus".

"We would never have approved its export," he said. "All the famous world galleries knew of the picture's position."

The authorities here believe that the painting, after being bought by an Argentine-based Spanish businessman, was smuggled out in a yacht before being sold in Switzerland to a British company, its present owners.

The painting, if sold, is expected to fetch millions of pounds. It was once acquired by Franco with the idea of presenting it to Hitler because the reclining marquis holds a Grecian lyre decorated with a swastika symbol. The new law was badly needed. In 1983, after the alarm was sounded, a member of the Experts Board said more than half of art exports never came before them. "While we are reviewing objects of often rival worth paintings like Goya's 'Marquesa' leave the country by other means," she said.

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Howe to face stiff test on apartheid in Lusaka

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, will need all his diplomatic skills when he attends a meeting of foreign ministers of the EEC and African "front line" states in Lusaka next Monday and Tuesday.

Sir Geoffrey is likely to come in for renewed criticism by the African leaders for Britain's refusal to impose economic sanctions on South Africa.

Although he will argue that British policy is in line with that of its European partners, there is a widely held view among the Africans that British foot-dragging has prevented the Community from adopting a more robust policy towards apartheid.

The Foreign Secretary could also find himself in a difficult position if he comes face-to-face with leaders of the African National Congress while in Lusaka.

Although the ANC will not be attending the two-day meeting, which is being hosted by President Kaunda of Zambia, chairman of the "front line" states, they will be very much in evidence at the fringes of the conference.

Mr Oliver Tambo, the ANC leader, has his headquarters in Lusaka and he and other senior ANC leaders have been invited to attend a number of social functions at which Sir Geoffrey will also be present.

Although Britain has put its name to EEC and Commonwealth resolutions calling on South Africa to lift its ban on the ANC and to release its president, Mr Nelson Mandela, from

prison, Britain has steadfastly refused to have any official contact with the organization because it advocates violence.

Does this mean he will refuse to talk to Mr Tambo or his colleagues if they try to approach him? If he declines he would offend his hosts.

The meeting, the first of its kind between the EEC and the foreign ministers of Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, stems from a proposal made last year by former President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania.

Although South Africa's involvement in Namibia and Angola will be high on the agenda, Pretoria's domestic policies will be the main focus of attention.

The foreign ministers will closely examine the speech which President Botha is due to make before the South African Parliament today to see if it contains any signs that the Government is prepared to start talking to black leaders about moving away from apartheid.

Both the EEC and the Commonwealth have warned that they will consider imposing new restrictions on South Africa if progress is not made soon towards dismantling apartheid.

On the Commonwealth side, a decision whether to take further action will not be made until after the Commonwealth group of "eminent persons" has completed its report, probably by early July, on the prospects for promoting dialogue between Pretoria and black leaders.

Land of darkness, permafrost - and untold riches

Selling Siberia to the Russians

From Christopher Walker, Yakutsk, eastern Siberia

As temperatures in this remote Soviet city dropped this week to minus 50 degrees Centigrade - about three times below that in the average domestic freezer - it became easy to understand why the new Kremlin leadership is fighting a losing battle to remedy Siberia's acute labour shortage.

Visibility was reduced to a few eerie yards by the swirling *tuman*, or freezing fog that never lifts at such extremes and is thickened by the fumes from thousands of vehicle engines kept running round the clock. Eyewitnesses often freeze together and outsiders are told to rub themselves with snow at the first tell-tale signs of frost-bite.

All buildings are erected on stilts above the permanently frozen sub-soil and triple-glazed in an effort to keep out the winter that lasts for eight months of every year. During the rest, temperatures soar to a sweltering 32 degrees Centigrade and attract swarms of vicious mosquitoes.

Yakutsk, one of the coldest inhabited spots on the globe, is also one of the main administrative centres involved in the costly Soviet drive designed to persuade an estimated one million workers to join the search for the forbidding region's massive deposits of minerals.

"For us, this is a relatively mild day, the schools are still functioning above the fourth grade and men are still out working on the construction sites," explained the mayor, Yuri Korkin, whose grandfather was banished here by the Czar. "It is only the weak who cannot face it and leave."

Western economic experts regard the Kremlin drive to use material incentives to persuade workers to move east for a minimum of three



Despite temperatures about three times below the average freezer, life goes on in the Siberian town of Yakutsk. But the extreme cold is a big factor in the losing battle to attract labour to the mineral-rich area.

years (in practice, many stick it for no longer than one) as the key to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's plan to revive the flagging Soviet economy. The riches of Siberia include oil, gas, diamonds, gold, coal and uranium.

As well as providing such bonuses as three times the average Soviet wage, the right to queue-jump for a new car, holiday rest homes in the Black Sea, sun and early retirement, the Kremlin is also trying to transform the image of Siberia from that of desolate penal colony to a seed-bed of economic reform and technological innovation.

Because of the remoteness,

many of Siberia's 29 million inhabitants (excluding the unknown total still in labour camps) refer to the rest of the Soviet Union as "the mainland". Statistics provided by the state airline, Aeroflot, show that each person flies out on average three times a year in an attempt to make life tolerable.

Senior Soviet officials told *The Times* that the main problems outstanding in the drive to attract labour was the shortage of housing (a walk of over three years in a hostel is not uncommon) and of kindergartens. Housing costs were estimated by Dr Pavil

Melnikov, Chief of Yakutsk's permafrost institute to be over twice those elsewhere in the Soviet Union.

The problems facing the Kremlin in exploiting what is known as "the Soviet El Dorado" were glaringly apparent in secondary school number six in the new coal-mining town of Neryungri, where the population has jumped from nil to over 100,000 in ten years, but many more workers are still desperately needed.

In a classroom dominated by portraits and sayings of Lenin, a group of 12 model pupils were produced to explain their thoughts about

the Siberian way of life. When asked by one Western reporter how many were prepared to stay on after their education was over, less than half raised their hands.

Of the hardy, ambitious and often youthful Soviet citizens who have heeded the Kremlin's clarion call (the average age in Neryungri is 26) many have their own solutions for withstanding the climate. "Every morning, I rub my face with ice, it is the best way to keep out the cold," said Nina Mekin, wife of the foreman of a truck repair depot. "In the summer, I do the same with ice from the freezer."

N Zealand spurns bid to 'buy' two agents

Wellington (Reuters) - New Zealand said yesterday it was powerless to force France to pay compensation for bombing the Greenpeace protest ship *Rainbow Warrior* but repeated that it would not contemplate freeing two jailed French secret agents.

The Prime Minister, Mr David Lange, said that there was virtually nothing a country of 3.5 million people could do to make France pay for the operation it ordered which sank the Greenpeace flagship and killed one of the crew.

"If you're big and you're powerful and you commit a crime, you don't, in the French view, have to acknowledge it," he said. "France simply wants to buy back two criminals. The simple fact is that we cannot in New Zealand sell two convicts."

The French Prime Minister, M Laurent Fabius, said in Paris on Wednesday that compensation talks between France and New Zealand were stalled by Wellington's refusal to negotiate the release of Captain Dominique Prieur and Major Alain Mafart of the DGSE intelligence service, who are each serving 10 years for their role in the sabotage operation last July.

New Zealand has sought about \$11 million (£7.8 million) from France for the costs of the police investigation and as damages for the invasion of its sovereignty.

● ORLEANS: M Jacques Chirac, the French right-wing opposition leader, accused New Zealand of helping groups working against French interests and called on Wellington to release the two jailed French agents (Reuters reports).

US warns firms in Angola

From Michael Binyon, Washington

As Dr Jonas Savimbi, the Angolan rebel leader, met President Reagan yesterday, the Administration called in effect on US oil and other companies to consider pulling out of Angola.

The State Department said: "We are telling American companies active in Angola that they should take note of the fact that they are in the middle of a war, operating at great risk and that they should be thinking about US national interests as well as their own."

He said the US viewed with concern the escalation of the war in Angola, the growing Soviet involvement and the failure of the Luanda Government to negotiate and move towards a settlement in Namibia.

Much of the hard currency earned from oil exports was used to import military equipment and pay for Cuban troops, the spokesman said.

His call came after similar remarks by Mr Chester Crocker, the US Assistant



Dr Jonas Savimbi: seeking arms from Mr Reagan.

Secretary of State for African Affairs, who this week reversed previous Administration support for the Gulf Oil Company operating in Angola's Cabinda enclave. He said the presence of the company, which produces \$2 billion (about £1.3 billion) worth of oil a year, had not accelerated the Namibia independence negotiating process.

Dr Savimbi, the anti-Marxist Unita guerrilla leader, is here for a week to seek US arms, mainly tanks and anti-aircraft missiles. He had

talks with Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, on Wednesday.

The Reagan Administration wants to give effective support to the South African-backed Unita rebels despite strong opposition in Congress. It has reportedly asked the Senate intelligence committee for \$10-15 million in covert assistance to be administered by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Angola relies on oil for foreign exchange, and in 1984 the Administration said US business participation was "in the long-term interest of both our nations and of all Angolans". But the State Department, while repeating this on Wednesday, suggested it was no longer really the Administration view.

A clear reason for the change is the belief here that if Dr Savimbi is to be given more arms and backing, his first priority will be to attack important targets such as Angola's oil installations. The Administration does not want to be held accountable for losses sustained by US companies.

Paper refuses to pay ANC case damages

Johannesburg (AP) - The *Johannesburg Star* yesterday said it would not pay £25,000 in libel damages awarded by a British court to a guerrilla leader, saying the court had no jurisdiction in the case.

The editor, Mr Harvey Tyson, said in a statement that the paper apologized in print long ago for its error in reporting that Mr Joe Slovo, a white leader of the outlawed African National Congress, had arranged the murder of his wife, Ruth First, in Mozambique in 1982.

He said the retraction did not identify Mr Slovo by name for fear of repeating the libel. The paper later offered a settlement to Mr Slovo, including damages and payment of his legal costs.

Mistakes committed by Gandhi trial judge

Delhi (Reuters) - The Delhi High Court said yesterday that the judge in the Gandhi murder trial committed irregularities when he sentenced the three defendants to death last week, but it declined to quash the sentences.

A two-judge panel, ruling on a petition by two of the convicted men challenging the validity of the sentencing, said it was up to a full appeals hearing to decide whether to quash the verdict and sentences. Appeals in the case will also be held in the High Court but have not yet started.

The judges ordered authorities at Delhi's Tihar jail to remove the convicted men from solitary confinement, issue them with winter wear, allow them to wear turbans and shoes and to

stop shining floodlights on them at night.

The joint petition by Kehar Singh and Balbir Singh, convicted of conspiring to murder Mrs Gandhi, challenged the legality of the death sentences on the grounds of sentencing irregularities and omissions by the trial judge, Mr Mohesh Chandra. The third defendant, Sarwan Singh, has yet to launch his appeal.

The judges said sentencing did not conform with the criminal code because Mr Chandra failed to utter the regulation phrase that the convicted men should be hanged by the neck until dead.

The judges said the fear of the two convicted men that they might be executed without appeal was misplaced.

Botha overrules ban on slogans

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South Africa yesterday cancelled an edict banning the public display or distribution of all posters, pamphlets, stickers and even clothing expressing a political viewpoint or slogan of any kind.

The ban, issued on Wednesday by the Cape Town police chief, had been denounced as "absurd and ridiculous" by civil rights groups and the anti-apartheid opposition in the white House of Assembly, the Progressive Federal Party (PFP).

Dr Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, the PFP leader, said: "We must be one of the few countries in the world that pretend to have a parliamentary democracy where visual protest is banned by decree by a policeman when the head of state is due to make a crucial

speech and the no-confidence debate in Parliament is about to begin."

Today President Botha will open the 1986 session of Parliament, which in addition to the House of Assembly has separate chambers for mixed-race coloureds and Indians, in a speech that is tipped to set the Government's policy agenda for the year.

Mr Botha has been urged by the business community here, worried about the economic consequences of the continuing unrest, and by white liberal groups and moderate black leaders to make a bold statement of the Government's reform plans.

Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, leader of the conservative Zulu-based Inkatha organization, said he thought the inclusion of black MPs or even Cabinet ministers in the

racially-divided Parliament might be one of the moves announced by Mr Botha. But he said that a segregated Parliament would continue to be rejected by most blacks.

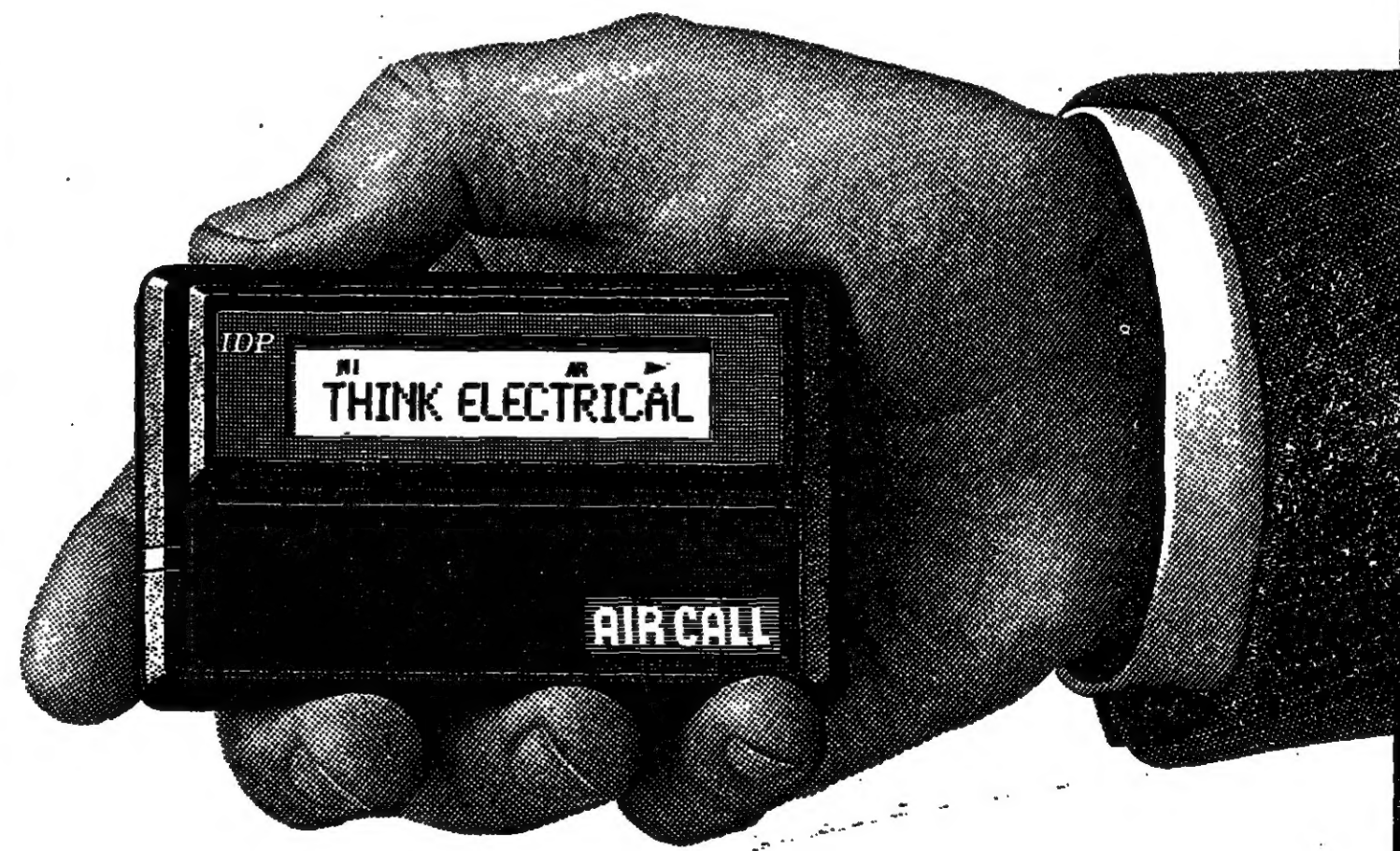
Meanwhile, a black man was shot dead and five other people were injured by police on Wednesday as violence continued in black townships.

Police said unrest in Mautville, near Krugersdorp north-west of Johannesburg, spread to a nearby white suburb on Wednesday night when a petrol bomb was thrown at a private home.

Some black schools in Johannesburg, reopened this week after months of boycotts, were disrupted by gangs of youngsters armed with hatchets and sticks.

Spectrum, page 10
Botha resists, page 12

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AIR CALL

The shuttle disaster

Nation rallies to Reagan call for a return to space

From Michael Binyon, Washington

President Reagan yesterday sent a personal letter to be read to the 1,200 pupils at the school in Concord, New Hampshire, where Mrs Christa McAuliffe, the teacher who died in the shuttle explosion, used to teach.

Governor John Sununu of New Hampshire proclaimed an official memorial to Mrs McAuliffe, and asked the state's residents and religious leaders to set aside time this weekend to honour her and the other astronauts.

As the nation absorbed the initial shock of Tuesday's shuttle disaster, Congress and public opinion has rallied quickly around President Reagan's insistence that life has to go on and so does the space programme.

Despite early questions about the wisdom of continuing manned space flights, congressional leaders, and particularly those who have flown in space or on the shuttle, now say that the programme cannot be halted, and that America must not lose its nerve. They expressed

confidence that the flights would begin again once the cause of the disaster had been identified.

Congressman support in general the idea of replacing Challenger, but admit that budget restrictions may make it difficult to find the money. Representative Edward Boland, a Democrat who heads the sub-committee handling appropriations for the space programme, says he favours building a fourth orbiter to replace Challenger.

But the new vehicle would cost \$2 billion (£1.4 billion), and with the new budget-balancing law forcing sharp cuts in all domestic programmes, a replacement would mean a drastic cutback in other space programmes. As it is, NASA is due to lose \$320 million out of its \$7.6 billion for the current financial year.

Both the Senate and House of Representatives will hold their own hearings into the disaster in the next few weeks, to look at the way NASA is conducting the inquiry. These will not dupli-

cate the scientific inquiry, but will give NASA a chance to explain its procedure to Congress. Congressmen have emphasized their support for and confidence in NASA.

Despite calls for the greater use of unmanned rockets, Congress accepts that public enthusiasm for space ventures has been generated and fed by manned missions, and this has ensured the funding.

● MOSCOW: After its earlier restrained and factual reports on the disaster, the state-run Soviet press yesterday took the opportunity to tell the Pentagon that it showed how important it was not to use space as a military arena (Our Correspondent writes).

Pravda said: "Though it seemed that the tragic sight of people dying in public should underscore the basic need to unite man's creative efforts in the difficult task of using space peacefully, there are some officials in Washington who find it possible to urge the speedy militarization of space."

Prince swears to serve democracy

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain's Crown Prince, Don Felipe de Bourbon, yesterday swore on his eighteenth birthday to uphold his country's democratic constitution at a solemn joint session of both Houses of Parliament.

It was a ceremony of colour and some pomp watched live on television by millions of Spaniards. Historians said it was without precedent — no Spanish crown prince had ever before sworn to a written constitution — only kings and queens. It took officials of the Cortes, the Spanish Parliament, and the Royal household weeks to finalize details.

Hardly more than 10 years after King Juan Carlos came to the throne after Franco's death, the ceremony served to emphasize the continuity and stability a monarchy can offer. Having been held in Parliament, it stressed the present king's remarkable insistence on the constitutional monarchy's identification with the people.

Spaniards had only to look to neighbouring Portugal, where the current election of a new head of state introduced a threatening polarization of society.

The ceremony was held in the same building that almost five years ago was the scene of a coup attempt by right-wing Spanish Army officers — an attempt aborted after the king's intervention.

In morning dress, the future Philip VI swore the oath, which included fidelity to the King on the original copy of the 1978 constitution, before Señor Gregorio Peces Barba, the Speaker of the lower house and a leader in a Socialist Party formally still committed to a republic.

The Prince's parents, King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia, and more than 500 MPs stood watching the ceremony.



Prince Felipe de Asturias takes the oath

The Prince of Asturias — the title given to Spanish Crown Princes since the 14th century — is training as an officer cadet at the Spanish Military Academy, Spain's Sandhurst. Yesterday's ceremony will ensure him of the throne should anything happen to King Juan Carlos, an active sportsman, in a country troubled by terrorism.

Only one MP from a small Catalan republican party boycotted the ceremony, saying he must devote his time to Spain's "more important problems".

Strict security was in force in the city centre for fear of a terrorist attack.

Asked if he would have preferred a life different from that of future King, Prince Felipe replied "Frankly yes". But he added: "At times it may seem hard but everyone has their task to fulfil in life and you must do it to the best of your ability."

Poll gives Aquino big lead

From David Watts, Manila

With a week to go to the presidential elections the Opposition believes Mrs Corason Aquino has a five million vote lead over President Marcos, according to a national opinion poll.

The poll was taken by a group called Professional Business Executives for Aquino-Laurel. Mr Fred Nabuat, the organization's chairman, said it had covered the Philippines' 13 regions, questioning some 2,000 voters in each local district. In Manila, the capital, a cross-section of 10,000 people were interviewed.

The five million vote figure is highly significant for the Opposition because it is believed that for Mr Marcos to win next Friday with such an opposition margin would require cheating so massive it would be impossible to conceal.

More important for the conduct of a remotely fair election is a struggle for the accreditation of a monitoring service whose quick count in the 1984 parliamentary elections prevented widespread cheating by the regime.

Mrs Aquino dropped her rather defensive style yesterday and quoted Isaiah in defining the election as a contest between good and evil.

"While Doy Laurel and I have been doing everything humanly possible to bring back power to our oppressed people, there comes a point when God's power has to intervene. We cannot win the election without God's help. I have no cheating experience."

She quoted the condemning words of Isaiah: "You are doomed. You make unjust laws but oppress my people."

Museveni chooses his premier



Mr Godfrey Binaisa, right, a former President of Uganda, greeting President Museveni, who was sworn in on Wednesday and was once Mr Binaisa's Defence Minister.

Britain's hopes for unity

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

Officially, Britain has reacted with studied caution to the military takeover in Uganda.

President Museveni's National Resistance Army.

Having seen leaders come and go amid varying degrees of bloodshed and turmoil in the 24 years since Uganda became independent, it is hardly surprising that officials in Whitehall are wondering if Mr Museveni will be any more successful than his predecessors in uniting his country and restoring stability.

Privately, however, British officials are desperately hoping that Mr Museveni will be as effective in the political arena as he has been on the battlefield.

It is feared in London that if Mr Museveni does not succeed quickly in uniting the country under his leadership, Uganda could face a prolonged civil war which could spill into neighbouring Kenya and lead to intervention by radical states to the north.

The British Government has been encouraged by Mr Museveni's public statements, particularly his emphasis on the need for stability and respect for human rights. It believes that if he can consolidate his authority, he will follow middle-of-the-road political and economic policies which would allow Uganda, potentially one of Africa's most prosperous nations, to repair

the damage caused by years of tyranny and conflict.

However Uganda's turbulent past, and in particular the country's endemic tribal rivalries, do not give too much cause for optimism.

Britain stands ready to provide substantial aid if Mr Museveni shows he can set up a stable administration in Kampala. It has already offered to help resettle into civilian life the tens of thousands of Ugandans currently under arms.

Seven members of a British military training team have been in Uganda since last summer, although they have been unable to operate effectively because of the continued fighting.

Kampala (AP) — Mr Yoweri Museveni, the rebel commander sworn in this week as Uganda's President, named himself Defence Minister yesterday in his first batch of Cabinet appointments.

As he did so, there were reports of violence and panic in areas of northern Uganda to which troops of the military regime ousted by President Museveni have retreated. In at least two towns, most residents have fled from rampaging soldiers, Western diplomats and aid officials said.

President Museveni, whose National Resistance Army (NRA) guerrillas captured Kampala at the weekend, named Mr Samson Kisekka, aged 73, a physician, as Prime Minister. Of the six men appointed to the Cabinet, only one has not been a member of the guerrilla movement — Mr Ponsiano Mulema, the Finance Minister, who was an MP for the opposition Democratic Party during the administration of President Obote, ousted in a military coup in July.

President Museveni says that about 6,000 soldiers of the ousted regime have surrendered. But thousands of others have fled to northern Uganda, engaging in rampages which have given the President the dilemma of whether to pursue them now or consolidate his new hold on the south.

Western aid officials said yesterday that soldiers of the ousted government had taken the town of Soroti in east-central Uganda, prompting many of the residents to flee.

On Wednesday, United and Red Cross workers flew to Soroti and rescued a British couple by plane.

In north-western Uganda, most expatriate aid workers had been rescued since the arrival of retreating army troops and members of an allied group composed of soldiers who served under the dictator Idi Amin in the 1970s.

In Kampala, the main business area was bustling, with only banks still closed. NRA soldiers, many of them in their early teens, were visible throughout the city. But Kampala residents said the guerrillas were polite and did not harass people.

Leading article, page 13

Son of executed hero for London

Bonn (Reuters) — The son of a German officer executed by the Nazis for his attempt to kill Adolf Hitler has been appointed West Germany's Defence Attaché to Britain, a Defence Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

Colonel Berthold von Stauffenberg will take up his new post in London with the rank of Brigadier General on April 1.

His father, Claus von Stauffenberg, was shot in July 1944 after planting a bomb at a military command meeting with Hitler in a failed officers' coup codenamed "Operation Valkyrie". He is now honoured in West Germany as a national resistance hero.

Snow blacks out 60,000

Privas (AP) — A full emergency has been declared in the mountainous Ardeche region of south-east France after 5ft snowfalls brought down electricity lines, cutting power to more than 60,000 people in area and neighbouring regions.

The state-owned power service, Electricité de France, said they could not predict when the power services could be restored.

Syrians jailed

Vienna (AFP) — Two Syrians who hijacked a Lufthansa Boeing 727 with 41 passengers and crew to Vienna in February last year while it was flying from Frankfurt to Damascus, have been sentenced to five years imprisonment.

Militant freed

Brussels (Reuters) — Mr Ronald van den Bogaert, a Belgian socialist militant, jailed in Zaïre for 10 years for alleged subversion, has arrived in Belgium after President Mobutu granted his freedom last weekend.

Cruel sales

Hong Kong (AFP) — Street hawkers in the Chinese town of Shenzhen are chopping off live animals' limbs and selling them to customers boasting of the meat's freshness, a local evening newspaper reported.

Patient lion

Rotorua (Reuters) — Patients and doctors barricaded themselves inside a Rotorua hospital after a lion entered the grounds. It was one of three which escaped from the circus for two hours. All were captured unharmed.

Junket ban

Peking (AFP) — Peking is to ban unnecessary foreign travel by official delegations because many members have spent too lavishly while abroad, draining precious foreign currency reserves.

Minister held

Seoul (AFP) — A South Korean dissident leader, the Reverend Moon Il-Hwan, a 69-year-old Presbyterian minister, has been arrested in connection with alleged anti-government activities.

Jet deaths

Sydney (AFP) — The Australian pilot and US navigator of an Australian jet fighter have been officially listed as presumed dead after their plane crashed into the sea during a training mission.

Strike spreads

Madrid (Reuters) — About 300 convicts in three Spanish jails have joined a hunger strike started last weekend by 50 inmates at Barcelona's Modelo prison to press the authorities for pardons.

Ship sunk

Malaga (Reuters) — Rescue teams have recovered the bodies of three members of a Spanish cargo ship with nine crew on board which sank in stormy seas off the coast here.

Nixon better

Miami (Reuters) — The former US President, Mr Richard Nixon, has been released from hospital after being treated for influenza and dehydration.

Rabid menace

Jakarta (AFP) — An average of one Indonesian dies from rabies every five days while 40 others are bitten by suspected rabies-carrying animals.

Aborigine anger at range deal

From Our Correspondent, Sydney

While Canberra continues to maintain a discreet silence about the Royal Commission's findings on British nuclear tests in Australia, Aborigines affected by the tests have been angered by the arrangement reached in London last week between the Hawke and Thatcher governments.

Lawyers for Aboriginal groups say the agreement, for a joint investigation by British and Australian scientists into a possible clean-up operation at the Maralinga range, effectively rejects two recommendations by the McClelland Commission.

These are that Britain should pay for an operation to make Maralinga fit for unrestricted habitation again, and that Aborigines should be represented on a statutory supervisory body.

Senator Gareth Evans, Minister for Energy and Resources, said after talks in London with Mr Norman Lamont, Minister for Defence Procurement, that Canberra had not expected Britain to accept full liability for a clean-up.

But the lawyers are worried the Anglo-Australian arrangement means that Aboriginal interests will be neglected.

Howe and Dumas look at Soviet arms offer

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and M Roland Dumas, his French counterpart, met yesterday to evaluate the latest arms control offer put forward on January 15 by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, and in particular his proposals for reducing and eventually eliminating medium-range missiles in Europe.

The two ministers, who were holding one of their regular meetings, agreed that neither Britain nor France would take up Mr

Gorbachev's offer for direct negotiations on reducing nuclear weapons until — and unless — the Soviet Union and the US had made big cuts in their own nuclear arsenals.

The British and French independent nuclear forces represent only a tiny fraction of those held by the Soviet Union.

Both countries are, however, prepared to discuss arms control issues with Moscow in the broader context of improving East-West relations.

Craxi pressed to hold Gadaffi talks

From John Earle, Rome

Signor Bettino Craxi, the Italian Prime Minister, is considering a proposal for him to meet the Libyan leader, Colonel Gadaffi, in Malta to discuss the easing of tensions in the Mediterranean.

The proposal came in a letter on Tuesday from the Maltese Prime Minister, Mr Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, and is reported to have the warm assent of the Libyan leader.

Signor Craxi has not rejected the proposal but is at present cool towards it. Italian officials say that certain conditions must be met, including Colonel Gadaffi demonstrating that he is against terrorism.



The Duke of Kent being welcomed to the British military ski championship at Innsbruck, Austria, by the captain of a local company of marksmen and children.

Superannuation with unions deal may frighten Australian employers

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

After three years of relative peace on Australia's turbulent industrial front it had become possible, until recently, to wring the admission from even the most hard-nosed employer that a Labor government could have benefits.

Now, however, a deal between Canberra and the unions has set boardroom alarm bells ringing again.

Depending on the point of view, Australia is about to undertake the biggest social reform since the Second World War, or to give birth to a monster.

The issue which has news-

paper leader writers reaching for such hyperbole is superannuation. About a quarter of Australia's workforce is covered by a retirement contribution scheme. The unions and the Government intend that by 1988 — which happens to be the bicentenary of white settlement — it should be universal.

There is little dispute about the desirability of such a scheme. The present old-age pension — \$Aus95 (£45) a week for a single person and \$Aus157 for a couple — might be a bit more generous than in Britain, but it does not go very far here either.

There is also the fact that each retired Australian is

dependent on tax raised from five workers; at the rate at which the labour force is diminishing, that ratio will be reduced to four within 15 years.

When the Prices and Incomes Accord, the vehicle for co-operation between Government and the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU), was renewed in September, little account was at first taken of a clause which granted, instead of the 4 per cent increase claimed by the unions, 3 per cent in the form of new or extra employers' superannuation contributions.

For the ACTU the deal was nothing short of a

triumph. In its business to see the accord extended, the Government had conceded a major point of principle.

Business also had cause for relief at the accord's survival. Time lost last year to industrial stoppages was only a quarter of that in 1981.

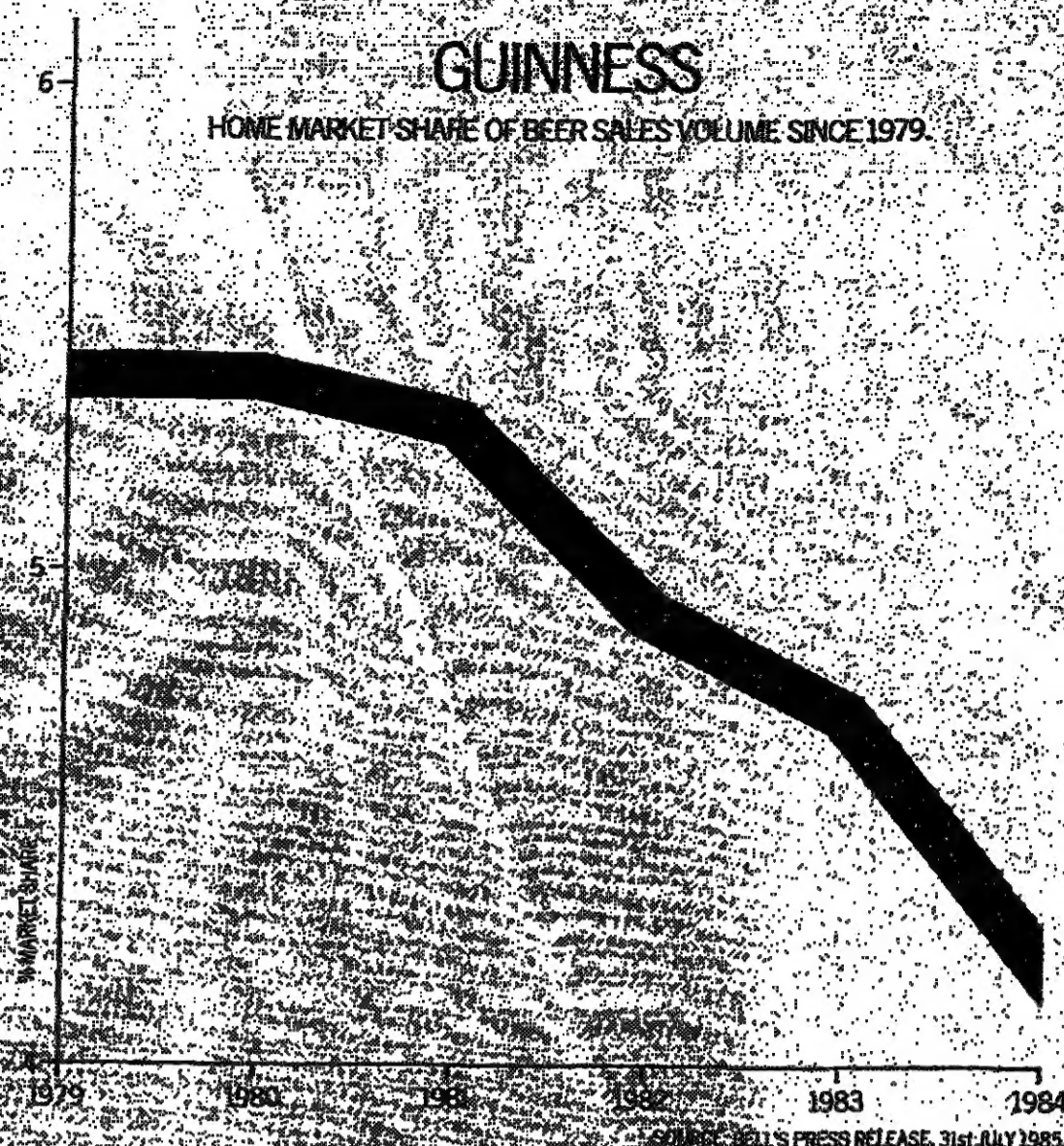
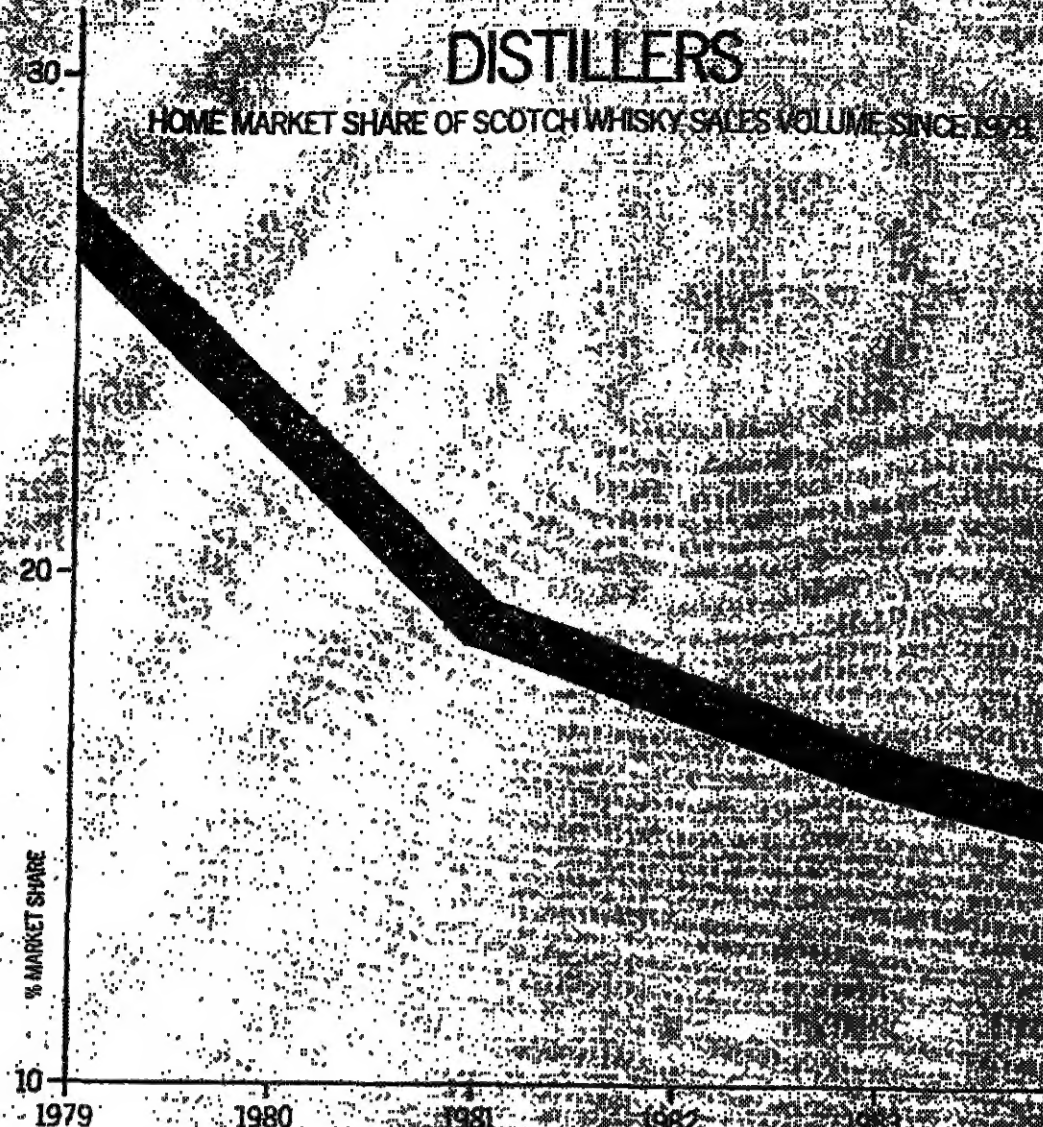
But it took little time for the implications of the mark two accord to sink in. Bound to wage increases under the agreement, the employers suddenly realized that it also bound them to superannuation. The fact is, according to an industrial observer, that this deal was done between the Government and the unions without even consulting those who are to pay.

As matters stand, from July employers will be obliged to pay 3 per cent of an employee's wage into funds to be created for each industry in conjunction with the appropriate union. Workers outside these schemes will be covered by a Government safety net.

But there is also another significant element. The new funds, together with the huge capital flow they will generate, are to be controlled by the unions. The largest existing scheme, the Commonwealth Public Service Superannuation Fund, will be handed over to the ACTU. This will give the unions

more influence over Australia's economy than ever before. There are those who maintain darkly that it will mean considerably more: that the country is drifting into a system with immense implications without having had the time to consider it fully.

There remains one major obstacle to the compact. The 3 per cent payment is predicated on an award yet to be made by the Arbitration Commission. Judgment on the ACTU claim, which is based on increased productivity, is expected in April, and the commission's reputation as a rubber-stamp agency is not born out by its record.



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SPECTRUM

A lesson from the fast lane

Britain's three-year trial of the compulsory wearing of front seat belts in cars and vans ends today. Parliament made the law permanent this month, amid speculation that the experiment had proved good for motorists but bad for cyclists and pedestrians. William Greaves reports

Driving a motor car is something which most other people do badly. We are captains at the bridge, mentally encased in gold braid, surrounded by unpredictability. In the league table of confessional conversation-stoppers "Actually, I'm a bad driver" rates somewhere alongside "Afraid I'm impotent these days" and "Truth to tell, I'm not much good at my job".

Yet in the last 10 years, 61,000 people have been killed on British roads and two-and-a-half million injured. Allowing the motorist the dictum that "there is no such thing as an accident, only a mistake", a terrifying number of "other" drivers are on the road.

Motorists just ignore motorway speed warnings

Pottering down to the shops on a Saturday morning or nipping along for a business meeting, it seems easier to believe we are at the controls of a modern convenience — rather like a dishwasher or a hi-fi music centre — than a potentially lethal piece of machinery. Are we sinners, or merely sinned against? Is the car driver or motorcyclist of 1986 a sober, upright and responsible citizen battling against outrageous fortune, or a feckly-turned-Hyde monster the moment he exchanges legs for wheels?

In London, for instance, becoming more or less like a 30p dodgem ride played for real? Are Britain's motorways the safety-first express arteries their planners intended, or the amateur race circuits their critics feared? As a fly in the passenger seat of an unmarked police car, I first explored the motorway.

PC Peter Elliott, 13 years with Surrey police traffic department, eased his white Ford Granada out on to the M25 at the Godstone junction. His commentary began moments later.

"That Volvo in front of us is going to have to pull out into the middle lane in front of us...there he goes...no signal...and at least half a mile behind us there's a car beeping up the middle lane...nothing else in sight of him...by hogging the middle lane he is effectively reducing a three-lane road to a single carriageway."

So whatever happened to the theory (or I thought it was a theory) of a slow lane, cruising lane and an overtaking lane? "A myth. It was always a myth. Unless you are approaching an intersection you should stick to the inside lane, however fast you are going, until you need to pull out."

It was 10.15am, the chaotic rush hour on London's orbital motorway had subsided into a steady stream of mid-morning traffic and I, a driver these last 27 years, had just had misconception number one exposed.

A car pulled off the hard shoulder. "Now that was dangerous. What he should have done was to build up speed on the hard shoulder before slipping into the traffic. A lot of motorists have no idea how quickly a car travelling at 70mph closes on another which is near stationary. He was lucky to get away without being rammed up the back. And here come our first speeders. A motorcyclist and a car coming past us at at least 85mph, far too close together. The car driver thinks that because he can see beyond the motorbike there's no danger in crowding him. All it needs is for that motorbike to do something unpredictable and the car would be into him."

A red estate car swept past in the fast lane, cut straight across all three lanes and nipped off down the A3 exit. "He got away with it, but that was bad. All it needed was for one vehicle to block his exit and he would have had to make a split-second decision whether to overshoot or force his way through. A potential accident situation if ever there was one."

It began to rain and, one by one, every car around us switched on headlights. "Good, very good. That's one message



On the road: Motorway driving (top) and a typical traffic snarl-up in central London

we do seem to have got across." A Jaguar XJS swept past. Peter Elliott put his foot down. Soon we were doing 120mph and still making little impression on the flying Jaguar.

"That car is built for that sort of speed, but is its driver? He's got a 50mph closing speed on just about everything around him. A split second's lapse of concentration and that would be curtains. Far, far too fast."

Peter Elliott arranged for automatic matrix systems to flash up a 50mph limit. We waited for two minutes on the hard shoulder. Not one car slowed. "I'm afraid I could have told you that would happen. It's a psychological fact that no motorist takes any notice of a speed warning unless he can see the reason for it. That's why an unexpected patch of fog can cause such havoc."

In 40 minutes on the motorway I had 18 examples in my notebook of thoughtless, risky or dangerous driving. "On the whole, lane discipline has been good — they've been behaving pretty well this morning", was the Elliott verdict.

Before setting out in central London with PC John Carroll, 17 years a police driver in the

capital, Chief Superintendent Eric Hyatt, commander of the Metropolitan Police Traffic Patrol, set down what he referred to as the "laws of the jungle".

"What we have to accept is that if all motorists stuck rigidly to the rules which pertain everywhere else, London would simply not operate in the rush hour at all. But there is a frighteningly thin line between playing the percentages and cutting corners on the one hand, and causing accidents and chaos on the other."

"An increased number of accidents involving cyclists and pedestrians in the last two years is an area of worry, but quite honestly there is no evidence to prove that driving standards are getting worse."

First to Hyde Park Corner with John Carroll at the wheel. "If three or four cars don't go through these lights on red it will be the first time in my experience. There they go — one, two, three, four, FIVE. The three-second all-red interval is there for safety, but they know they will probably get away with it. Look at that taxi slashing its way across the traffic. He knows, you see, that the quickest way to the roundabout is on the nearside

but now he wants to go right the way round and he's using his vehicle as a battering ram."

Frustration causes accidents — everyone is in a hurry

"Now here's a little van tearing up the nearside and barging in to turn right at the lights. He's got away with it. If someone had driven into him rather than give way that would be a tailback half-way to Piccadilly Circus in a matter of seconds." We had been there for less than half a minute.

En route to Scotch Corner, Knightsbridge. "Now we're on a one-way street but that car in front is waiting to turn right from the left-hand lane. He's stopping anyone behind filtering through left. That's all it needs for a hold-up. This Mercedes parked alongside a bollard — anything bigger than a van couldn't fit through. That'll cause trouble. Cyclist

straight through the lights on red. Thinks they don't apply to him. He'll end up getting hurt. Another cyclist riding between two lanes of traffic. I did that once on a police motor bike and got sandwiched. It can happen in a second and it's terrifying when it does."

"Now then, box junction and three cars stuck on it as the lights change. Nothing can get across the other way. Total stalemate — just because they wanted to beat the first lights. That estate car wants to turn right into Knightsbridge, knows full well it can't so he's doing a U-turn straight across Sloane Street. That's fixed him, he's stuck broadside across the traffic. Just look at the cars piling up. It's selfish — and it's brought everybody else to a stop. Van with a ladder sticking out on top, straight out into Lyall Street, knows we'll stop for him, lucky he was right."

"It's really all down to frustration. Everyone's late and trying to make up time. People from outside London are lost because the direction signs are so inadequate. And people from inside London know the police are so undermanned that they will probably get away with anything. It doesn't take much to stop central London."

HISTORY

1902: Frenchman G. Leveau publishes world's first patent for "seat belts".

1920: "Sutton" harness for airmen instituted as standard fitment for aircraft — also used by racing drivers at Brooklands.

1950-55: Various belt patents culminate in the three-point running lock, the basis of today's designs.

1962: Saab and Volvo among first imported cars to have seat belts as standard fittings.

1965: Seat belts had to be fitted under British law to cars and vans registered after January 1 that year.

1971: Australian state of Victoria becomes first territory in the world to make the wearing of seat belts obligatory by law.

Whole of Australia and New Zealand follow suit in 1972.

1975: Compulsory seat-belt wearing introduced in Sweden, Finland, Brazil, Poland, Spain and Czechoslovakia.

1980: Twenty-three countries now insist on wearing of seat belts for driver and front-seat passenger. Despite four attempts in Parliament (1973, 74, 77 and 79), UK is only EEC country not to do so.

1983: Three-year experimental period for compulsory wearing of front seat belts begins February 1.

1986: January 13 - Parliament anticipates end of experimental period (Jan 31) and votes to make obligatory front seat belt wearing permanent law of the land.

1987: Fitting of rear seat-belts will become legal requirement on April 1 next year on all cars first registered on or after October 1, 1986.

THE FACTS

If the 61,000 people killed and 2,500,000 people injured on British roads in the last 10 years were laid end to end, they would stretch over 3,000 miles — twice the length of the British motorway system.

Shocking as this might be, two other facts paint a less grim picture. France, Germany, Belgium, Austria, Switzerland, Portugal and Yugoslavia all have more than twice as many road deaths per million population than Britain. And as more new drivers took to the roads in Britain in 1981 it took only 2.5 million vehicles to kill 9,169 people — compared with 20 million vehicles and "only" 5,500 a year dead today.

As far as the seat belt experiment is concerned, the statistics during the first two years appear to produce strong, if not spectacular, proof of the value of front seat belts. The number of front-seat occupants to suffer fatal or serious injury has dropped by about 7,000 a year (including about 470 deaths) — but, at 4,587, the number of rear-seat passengers to be seriously injured in 1984 was at least 200 higher than in any of the previous six years.

Disquietingly, during the same two years more than 1,500 more pedestrians, and cyclists were killed or seriously hurt than in similar previous periods. The Department of Transport, however, believes that when the number of road users hit by vehicles not covered by the seat-belt regulations (heavy lorries, coaches and buses, for instance) is discounted, "it cannot be concluded these increases were associated with compulsory seat belt wearing". (Additional research by Dr Trevor Smith.)

SATURDAY

The weekend starts here



The race for the big screen

The television of the future is a giant flat screen on the living room wall. Bryan Appleyard reports on the high-tech battle among scientists to bring the movie experience into the home

● On stage: George Cole buries Arthur

● To Russia with love: charms of Moscow

Portfolio £42,000 to be won

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Playwright who throws his weight around

John Godber's new play about Karen Briggs, the world judo champion from Hull, pulls no punches

The award-winning playwright John Godber stands six feet two inches tall, weighs in at 17 stone and remains hugely frustrated by the fact that his powerlifting career included one 296 pound bench press: "Just four short of the magic 300".

The sheer physicality of his presence, and the Yorkshire mining town background he retains so prominently, goes some way to explain why he has written two plays about rugby league — including *Up 'N' Under* which won the Laurence Olivier Award — and one on night club bouncers.

So it is vaguely puzzling that his latest play has been inspired by a comparative slip of a girl who stands under five feet and weighs just seven and a half stone. Until, that is, one discovers two facts.

The first is that the girl is none other than Karen Briggs, Britain's world bantamweight judo champion who, in an indisputable manner, makes up with skill and speed what she lacks in bulk.

And the second is that she lives in Hull — John Godber's home for the past two years since he has been the artistic director of the Hull Trucking Theatre Company, one of Britain's most enterprising touring theatre groups.

"Having done two plays on



Fighting talk: John Godber and Karen Briggs during rehearsals in Hull

rugby league which is the biggest sport in Hull, I wanted to do a play on the biggest individual, and there is no question that, with two world titles under her belt, Karen Briggs is a bit special", says Godber, swamping a theatre set during rehearsals and glugging Lucozade from the bottle.

He went for an initial chat with Karen at her home in Bransholme, Europe's largest housing estate, where 50,000 people live cheek by jowl.

"I was very impressed. I like enjoying myself — I am the kind of person who would have a curry at 11.30 at night if I felt like it. But for Karen, judo was a complete life attitude — she was very singleminded and very stoical. And that is what you would expect from someone who is the best in the world at what she does."

That was in September. Four months later, after hours of reading judo books, watching videos of Karen's top competitions, more talks, and even personal experience on the judo mat with Karen's instructor, Mike Joyce, First Dan, he started to write.

The result is *Blood Sweat and Tears*, which is premiered in Hull's Spring Street Theatre next Tuesday. It will then tour Milton Keynes and York before coming to London's Tricycle Theatre, Kilburn, for a month. It is also the subject of a *South Bank Show* documentary and will eventually be filmed by BBC television as a *Play for Today*.

The set of *Blood, Sweat and Tears* is a dojo

Preparation for the first night has been arduous for Godber, who believes firmly in showing the action, full frontal.

So the set of *Blood, Sweat and Tears* is a dojo, with a real judo mat, and the leading actors have spent as much time in Karen's own dojo, Kingston Judo Club, as in the rehearsal rooms. And that goes for John Godber too.

Godber knew as soon as he saw a dojo, that he had a naturally theatrical milieu.

"Put a red and green contest

mat down, light it with stark white lights, and you've got something exciting." In a way, that was the easiest part.

The plot also emerged without too much of a tussle. "From talking to Karen, and people who know her, it was obvious she was going to the top from the beginning." Yet he wanted to convey Karen not so much in terms of her gold medals or world titles, but more in terms of her determination to pursue a specific goal.

The play's heroine is Louise Underwood, a 19 year old who works in a Hull restaurant and becomes European middleweight judo champion. It is a tale of the road to black belt, the change from being giggly and socially feminine — "What, lay on the floor with all those men?" — to coping with some unpleasant rivalry.

It meant the cast becoming proficient in judo, but particularly Jane Clifford, who plays Louise, for she had to learn Miss Briggs's specific style with the big throws, the *Tai-Otoshi* (body drop) and *Tomoe-Nage* (stomach throw), for which she is

known all over the world. Miss Briggs was unable to coach the actors herself as planned, because of injury.

"When John first came to see me he even asked me if I would be interested in acting in the play, though I admitted I had never been to the theatre," said Karen, who is 22. "It wasn't possible because I was still competing, but I did want to help them with the judo, and to give them an idea of what it is like to fight."

This is very important for Godber, for he feels that realism is crucial. "From where I come from — Upton and the Frinckley pit — nobody would think of going to the theatre."

"But the word drama comes from the Greek *Dramanon*, which means 'the thing done'. It is to do with action, and I want to put action on the stage, so that anyone can come

This is exactly what Miss Briggs feels — even though Spring Street Theatre was just four miles away, she had never thought of going to a play. "I thought it would be boring," she said simply. But, having seen Mr Godber's *Up 'N' Under*, she remarked: "It was good because it was realistic."

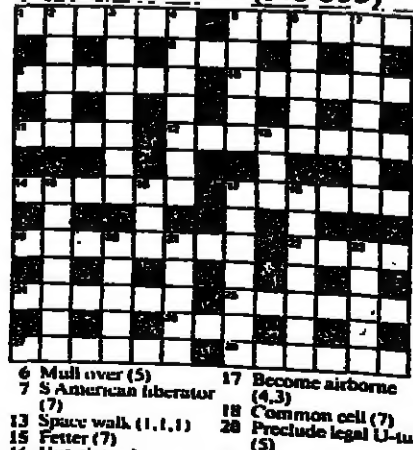
With his five-year background as a drama teacher in his old secondary school, and a playwrighting history that goes back to his first attempt at the age of 16 — John Godber (he is now 29) has a deeply rooted belief in live theatre.

He has also proved himself in television. "I want to change the view of ordinary people that the theatre is a big black box with a red curtain which opens to let famous people walk on."

Nicolas Soames

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 863)

ACROSS
1 Humiliated (6)
2 Drink in (6)
3 American navy (11,1,1)
4 Clutter (6)
5 Not proper (3,1)
6 Sharp decline (8)
7 Human mind (6)
8 Herald's jacket (6)
9 Returned (4,4)
10 Chance (4)
11 Drawing (6)
12 Paraphrase (6)
13 Paraphrase (6)
14 World money reserve (1,1,1)
15 Shared (6)
16 Duplicitous (6)
17 Down
18 First (5)
19 Oxford formal (7)
20 Harsh (7)
21 Imprisonment (7)
22 NW Indian river (5)
23 Down
24 Multi over (5)
25 American liberator (7)
26 Space walk (11,1,1)
27 Fetter (7)
28 Hut plate (1)
29 Down
30 Plume (5)
31 Down
32 Plume (5)



SOLUTION TO No 862
ACROSS: 8 Wholesome food 9 Put 10 Guarantee 11 Septa 13 Cessp
16 Auditor 19 Orbi 22 Viceregal 24 Who 25 Shut in the dark
DOWN: 1 Swipes 2 Dollop 3 Sergeant 4 Mosaic 5 Feta 6 Root of
7 A cent 12 Ecu 14 Smoulder 15 ICT 16 Advise 17 Doctor 18 Right
20 Bowman 21 Troika 23 Ruin

مكتبة الامم المتحدة

FRIDAY PAGE

A disciplinary hearing begins on Monday into the case of a London obstetrician

Savage's fight for her future

In August 1983 Susan Payne's daughter Lorraine was delivered at Mile End Hospital by caesarean after an 18-hour labour.

"Believe me if I had thought there was anything wrong with the way Wendy Savage handled the birth, I certainly wouldn't have had her for the next baby," Stephen, born in December 1984 - or allowed myself to be booked with her for the baby I'm expecting in July," said Mrs Payne at her two-bedroomed council flat in the East End this week.

Mrs Payne, 28, was angry when she found that the notes on Lorraine's birth were being used. If they had asked me I'd never have agreed. I knew well in advance that the baby was a breech and that there was a possibility of a caesarean.

"I am 6 foot tall - with, as they say, good child-bearing hips - and there was no reason not to try to give birth to her normally. X-rays were done at 36 weeks to make sure my pelvis wasn't too small."

"I went into labour at 2am and into the hospital early because of the position of the baby. Everything was going along lovely - she was ready to be delivered at 8am but she simply didn't want to come down; she was comfortable where she was."

"They gave me an epidural at 12 and at 12 my waters broke. Then the contractions just stopped. At 5pm they put up a drip to induce her but by 7 still nothing was happening so they decided to do the caesarean."

"I have never felt any sense of complaint against Wendy Savage. She did the caesarean herself and handed the baby to her dad - and a prouder dad you never did see. They are inseparable."

"The thing about Mrs Savage is that she doesn't automatically pigeon hole you 'breech'. I tell you when I heard she was being accused and that my baby's birth was being used against her I just left the children and went out into the kitchen and had a good swear - even my husband said 'it can't be possible'."

However, less than 2 miles away in Bow there was a different story told by a 37-year-old divorcee whose daughter was 15 and still at school when she became pregnant.

"My daughter, call her Jackie, does not want to be identified

because she'd lose her job if they knew she had a baby. I was disgusted by the way we were treated by Mrs Savage."

"She was very abrupt from the beginning when we went to her clinic for an abortion. It was up to her and she took one look at me and seemed to think 'oh she's young enough to cope with a schoolgirl and her baby'."

"Jackie is 4ft 10in and I'd have thought anyone looking at her would have thought she'd have had to have a caesarean. We all put our trust in Mrs Savage who said she would be there at the birth. But when it came to it she wasn't, she was at the end of a telephone telling the mid-wife what to do."

"Jackie was in labour for 24 hours and in the end had to have a caesarean. The baby was big and he had fractures of the skull when he was born. He is now 16 months and perfectly healthy. Yes, I'm landed with him - it's just like having another one to look after but we manage quite well. We share."

Denise Lewis in Poplar, also in the East End, had breech twins, Sebastian and Sacha, by caesarean which was performed with both Savage and her chief clinical opponent professor Geddes Grudzinski present.

"I was taken in with pre-eclampsia. I am rhesus negative and had to have a blood transfusion. I had high blood pressure which got worse during labour and both of them decided it was time to do a caesarean. I didn't agree and asked to be left alone but they said it was getting a bit iffy. Neither twin suffered any ill effect - one was 5lb 16oz and the other 6lb 1oz. I can't see how or why Mrs Savage can be thought to be incompetent. I was really shocked to find my case was being used. No one ever asked me if I had a complaint."

Linda Ganderson's story is touched with tragedy. "I decided to have shared care with my GP and Mrs Savage during the pregnancy and everything was really good. On Good Friday 1984 I started to bleed at 8½ months and went to hospital. The doctors listened to the heart beat and the baby and said it was the best we had heard all day. They put me to bed and came around to check the baby's heart every four or five hours. On

MEDICAL BRIEFING SPECIAL

On Monday perhaps the most extraordinary disciplinary tribunal the health service has ever seen opens in London. Mrs Wendy Savage, a consultant obstetrician at the London Hospital, will face allegations of professional incompetence, based on her handling of five cases of child birth dating back to 1983.

The whole inquiry, including Mrs Savage's suspension on full pay since last April, will cost Tower Hamlets Health Authority, which this year had to make savings of £800,000 on its budget, in excess of £100,000. Unusually, much of the inquiry is likely to be held in public.

The issues raised have gone far beyond the competence or otherwise of one individual consultant, but have provided a focus for the

continuing debate between those who believe that child birth should be as natural as possible, with the woman having the right to choose the way her child is born, and those who favour more intervention in child birth in the interests of the baby.

Only one of the five births has been the subject of a complaint, that of Asma Udin, who lost her baby son within days of him being delivered by caesarean section by Savage.

The Times spoke to three other mothers whose case notes form the basis of evidence to the official inquiry even though none feels any cause for complaint about the way their pregnancies and births were handled. Only the grandmother of the fifth baby - born to a 15-year-old schoolgirl - was critical.

Saturday afternoon, it was about 5 o'clock, they came back to check and there was nothing. He just died inside me," Mrs Savage was away at a conference at the time Linda lost her first baby: "she had nothing to do with it at all."

Linda now has another baby, Paul, who is 5½ months old. Once

again she chose to be under the care of Savage, and this time, because of the loss of her first child she was scanned every two weeks. When it was noticed that the fetus was not putting on enough weight she was brought on early.

"At the time I lost the baby I

didn't really feel anything but now I have a baby who is healthy and well I feel worse about it than ever I did before. When I hold him now I know the meaning of loss. It makes you feel more bitter knowing the life that was lost."

Alison Miller



Wendy Savage: Battling for her future



Susan Payne and family: No sense of complaint



Linda Ganderson: I know the meaning of loss

Despite progress, childbirth is still raising questions.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford explains...

Obstetric forceps were designed in Britain in the 17th century by Sir Chamberlen, and popularized by his son, Hugh. Their invention defeated natural selection, so that women who had had problems with delivery survived to have daughters who in their turn would suffer similar troubles.

Despite three centuries of medical intervention, it is estimated that 90 per cent of women would survive natural childbirth, although possibly not in very good shape, and 75 per cent can be safely delivered without medical interference; obstetricians fight to save the lives of the remaining 25 per cent of women and babies.

Those familiar with childbirth in primitive conditions like to remember the case with which an

agricultural worker goes to the edge of a field and has her baby as readily as if she were a lambing ewe, but they are also well aware that in the poorer countries up to twice as many pregnant women are likely to die as in affluent countries.

Even the concept of painless labour in primitive countries is inaccurate. Although women may recover quicker from a normal delivery, the discomfort seems comparable; pain is associated with complications and, as these abound where antenatal care is poor, unbearable pain in childbirth is more frequent.

Since such a large majority of women labour successfully and have a normal delivery, policy can never be dictated by the experience of a few. Instead, much wider surveys are needed to compare different methods of delivery in order to determine the safest methods. Progress is being made; in Britain in 1952 the perinatal mortality (stillbirth or death in the first week) was 37 per thousand; in 1978 it had dropped to 15 per thousand. Compared to 1952, the death rate

in women has dropped by 80 per cent.

There is a price to pay for the increased safety of childbearing - a greater reliance on operative delivery, forceps, vacuum extraction and caesarean section. In 1963 the caesarean section rate was 4.6 per thousand, in 1978 7.5 per thousand; the 1963 forceps rate of 8.1 per cent had risen by 1978 to 13.1 per cent. More recent national figures are not yet available, but one of Liverpool's large, inner-city hospitals practicing high standards of care in deprived social surroundings has a forceps rate of 15 per cent and a caesarean rate of 10 per cent.

Research workers find it hard to evaluate small random trials in obstetrics. Circumstances vary so markedly that it would be misleading to draw conclusions from a small sample, which would in any case be unlikely to be random as patients tend to select a hospital or obstetrician which they feel will suit needs. In addition, general practitioners do their best to direct a patient to a suitable obstetrician. Most doctors find it impossible

to justify the notion which accepts that a certain number of babies can be sacrificed in order that the majority of women may be given a happier, possibly home, delivery. Their concern is not only to procure the maximum number of live babies, but to make certain that their condition at delivery will give them the best opportunity for a fit, mental and physical life.

Delivery at home has the advantage in that the infection rate is dramatically reduced, but trials which have minimized other hazards have tended to be carried out by keen GPs working in first class practices.

BIRTH RIGHTS

Why and when does a woman have to have an episiotomy? When the soft tissue, the perineum, is delaying delivery to the detriment of the mother and the baby, it is customary to make a surgical incision to enlarge the opening. In Britain this is made at an angle, the mediolateral. In America and on the Continent a

midline incision is usually used, but this has the disadvantage that any extension will tear into the rectum. The operation has been

criticized recently by people who have no memory of the prolapses and other gynaecological complications which followed extensive stretching and tearing; it used to be said that obstetricians saved the letter, but destroyed the envelope. If an episiotomy can save a rectal tear it is worth exchanging a possible few weeks of discomfort for what can be a lifetime of anal incompetence.

How long should my labour last? Medically speaking, time is irrelevant so long as there is progress, always supposing that the mother and baby remain in good health. This is why surveillance is so important.

Doctors realize that the limitation of movement which is inevitable with most monitoring devices is trying, but argue that the older regime of listening to the baby's heart for 60 seconds every 15 minutes only gives cover for 8 per cent of the time

in which the baby will be making the most hazardous journey of its life. The great majority of labours last for under 12 hours, but it is impossible to make a hard and fast rule. Some mothers and their babies will be showing serious distress long before then, others will continue to make slow progress and remain in perfect health for much longer.

Will the forceps damage the baby?

No. Most forceps deliveries are what are colloquially known as a lift-out. The baby's head is very low and can be felt clearly; slipping the forceps around the skull will save it from damage and will enable the doctor to shorten labour. Mid-cavity forceps are used when the baby's head has to be turned before it is delivered. Training in forceps use today is well supervised.

Will my baby be induced to enable my doctor to keep his golf appointment? No. Induction for the social convenience of the obstetrician is considered an unforgivable sin. Occasionally if the mother re-

quests induction and has good reasons to support her plea one may be organized, but only if she understands everything it entails.

When there are other indications for inductions it may well be that labour will be started to allow for delivery during "office hours" for safety's sake. It is much safer to have a baby when the laboratory staff are on hand for blood transfusions, when there is a full complement of anaesthetists and when the whole obstetric team is in the hospital.

Will I be induced if I go over my dates?

In the past it has been difficult to judge dates. Now a decision as to maturity is taken after considering three factors: the first day of the last menstrual period, the examination findings of an experienced doctor about the third month of pregnancy and the ultrasound results recorded at the 16th week. Taken in combination these findings give a 90 per cent accuracy. Most units will induce round about the 41st week, other things being equal.

Resistance born from the death of a constitution

A remarkable group of white women are fighting for black rights in South Africa

When Molly Blackburn, the white upper middle-class wife of a Fort Elizabeth doctor, was buried early this month, some 20,000 blacks turned out for the funeral. This display of black affection so moved the South African authorities that they banned the memorial service that was to have been held a week or so later on the grounds that it posed a danger to public peace.

Blackburn was a member of a remarkable organization of white women, the Black Sash, which has just celebrated its 30th anniversary. It has probably done more than any other liberal group to persuade blacks that whites can be friends rather than foes, and to prevent black nationalism from becoming virulently anti-white.

In her mid-50s at the time of her death, Blackburn was killed in a car accident at the turn of the year. After bringing up seven children, she could easily have settled for the comfortable, privileged lifestyle for which her class and skin colour qualified her. She looked the part, usually dressed in an elegant white blouse and skirt, a string of pearls at her neck.

Instead, about four years ago, she joined the Black Sash, and spent most of her time in places where few whites go: the dusty streets of black townships, haunting police stations in tireless pursuit of allegations of police harassment and brutality, or listening patiently to the stream of blacks who daily bring their problems over housing, money, jobs or the "pass laws" to the Black Sash's dingy advice office in Port Elizabeth.

The Black Sash was started in 1955 when a group of white women organized protests against the National Party's gerrymandering of the constitution for the purpose of removing the mixed-race "coloureds" from the common voters' roll.

She sacrificed her white privilege

Those involved were mainly English-speaking members of women's branches of General Jan Smuts's United Party, which had been defeated by the Nationalists in 1948 and had fallen into fractious disarray. Fed up with the dithering of their menfolk, they took matters into their own hands and formed the women's Defence of the Constitution League.

It was the press which coined the name Black Sash - a reference to their method of protest: standing in silent



Sheena Duncan: Sash president



Molly Blackburn: Disliked bullies

reproach in public places, carrying placards and wearing white dresses with broad black sashes slung diagonally from the right shoulder as symbols of their mourning for the murder of the constitution. The name stuck and was later adopted as the official one.

By 1956 the constitutional issue which had given birth to the Black Sash had been fought and lost. Instead of disbanding, the leaders decided to broaden their campaign to defend civil rights, those of South Africa's deprived and disenfranchised black majority in particular.

The decision soon exposed the narrowness of South African liberalism. It was one thing for middle-class ladies of English background to be asked to protest against the unconstitutional machinations of a Boer government; it was quite another to expect

them to campaign for equal citizenship with blacks. "Membership slumped in a few weeks from 10,000 to about 2,000," Jean Sinclair, one of the six founder members of the organization and now in her 70s, recalls. "We were ostracised socially, and all but a handful of our best friends dropped us. When we were invited out, it was usually a disaster. Sheena and I could be relied on to break up any dinner party in 10 minutes flat."

Sheena is Sheena Duncan. Jean Sinclair's daughter, who is just coming to the end of her second term as national president of the Black Sash, which she joined in 1963. A robustly built, no-nonsense woman in her early 50s, she is about as far removed from the image of a sentimental and condescending do-gooder as could be imagined. Picketing and public pro-

testers are now only a small part of the Black Sash's activities. (Until the practice was prohibited, its members used to hold vigils in the public gallery of the House of Assembly in Cape Town, earning a famous rebuke from a National Party whip who told them: "You ladies must not come to Parliament to propagate the local and foreign press.")

Since 1976 all outdoor gatherings have been banned, and for at least 15 years, the Black Sash's most important work has been done in its advice offices, of which there are now seven. The biggest is in Johannesburg, with others in Pretoria, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Durban, Pietermaritzburg and Grahamstown.

They had enough of dithering men

In these shabby offices, Sash members, of whom there are about 2,000, try to help blacks find a way through the Kafkaesque web of regulations that cumsch almost every aspect of their lives.

In 1984 more than 26,000 individual interviews were conducted in the advice offices. Duncan believes that one of the Sash's most valuable achievements has been "to expose and publicize what it means to live as a black in South Africa, a

subject of which the vast majority of whites are still astonishingly ignorant."

Through the Transvaal Rural Action Committee, which it set up several years ago, the Black Sash also monitors the forced resettlement of black communities. Its relentless vigilance has brought many cases of such resettlement to the attention of the local and foreign press.

In recent years, the Sash's financial problems have been greatly eased by a contract with America's Ford Foundation under which the foundation funds the advice offices and receives research material and reports on conditions in South Africa in exchange.

What keeps the Black Sash women going? They know that their ability to influence the Government is marginal, and that whatever political system eventually replaces white rule is unlikely to have much time for their liberal concern with individual rights.

It is important to have a body of people upholding certain values that will always be needed, who will go on saying that something is wrong," Duncan says.

Perhaps the best, and simplest, summary of the Black Sash's credo was given by Molly Blackburn. Asked once what motivated her, she replied: "I don't like bullies."

Michael Hornsby

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THE TIMES DIARY

Promises, promises

Yorkshire Television's recent *First Tuesday* documentary about Crown immunity curiously omitted a key interview with Lord Shawcross. As attorney general under Attlee, Shawcross introduced the Crown Proceedings Bill which apparently guaranteed that servants injured on duty and forbidden to sue the Crown would be recompensed through pensions. YTV pointed out that Shawcross had promised in 1947 that such pensions would in general equal "the probable damages which may be recoverable in law" but felt that the pledge had been ratted upon. In a long interview, Shawcross denied that he had given any assurance as regards the future but said that today's pensions could not keep pace with court awards because of the "generosity of juries at the expense of insurance companies". Since juries have not decided damages in these cases for 20 years, an astonished YTV decided to scrap the whole sequence. But what of Shawcross's fee, raised at his insistence from £50 to £100? YTV says it takes its promises rather more seriously than governments and the cheque is in the post. "What I said didn't fit into their case," Shawcross told me yesterday. "I certainly wouldn't have done the thing for £50."

Coat of arms

Wherever Prince Charles goes, he can smell the fresh smell of paint. Yesterday, during a visit by him to the BBC's Kensington House offices, the smell could not have been too intense: the Beeb had only painted the corridors as far as the royal eye will see. "It's enough to make you anti-royalist," said our informant. The real rub was that the bar was being closed early...in the interests of security.

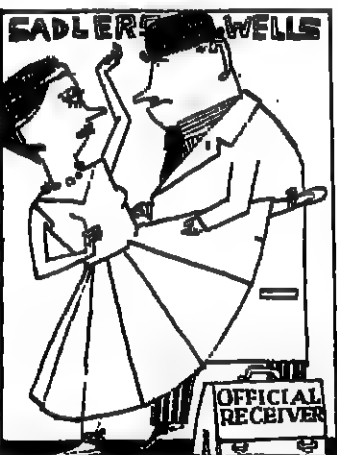
Wax lyrical

Mrs Thatcher is the most popular political figure - beating even Sir Winston Churchill - in Madame Tussaud's latest poll. It shouldn't go to her head, however: she comes second to Hitler in the Hate and Fear section.

Sleeping partner

John Hume, the SDLP MP from Northern Ireland, fell asleep during Neil Kinnock's lengthy peroration about the Westland leak, and his head came gently to rest on the shoulder of Seamus Mallon, his colleague and the province's newest MP. "I know you wanted some support in the House, John," murmured Mallon, "but I didn't think this was what you meant."

BARRY FANTONI



Burning issue

North London's top policeman, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Mike Richards, still insists that the lakes of petrol at Broadwater Farm actually existed as a fire trap for policemen during the riot. He has written an angry letter to *Police Review* insisting that "a brave police constable saw plastic bags filled with petrol being lobbed towards police lines." Maybe he did, but the police lines were 100 yards away from the estate - nowhere near the garages where the lakes are supposed to have been. One senior police officer who disdains the lakes affair is Chief Superintendent David Williams, the man in charge of the team which has prepared a still secret but highly critical report on police operations. Last week Williams told the *Enfield Gazette* that any petrol on the ground could have come from the ruptured petrol tank of an overturned car. He said: "There is bound to be a spillage when you are syphoning from car tanks. They were using very small bottles to make bombs and you would get as much petrol on the floor as in the bottle." Richards will not be pleased at that.

Homesewn

Talk about the rich tapestry of life. Visitors to the V & A can now pay the £2 voluntary charge not just to see an embroidered Napoleon and Queen Victoria in the newly opened exhibition "Characters in Cloth" but also an embroidered V & A director, the bespectacled Sir Roy Strong. Fortunately, the masterpiece will not be subjected to any export licence: it was commissioned by the museum and will remain in its permanent collection.

PHS

Schools: how everyone suffers

New Parents

I write to you more distressed about the state of education than at any time in my years at the school.

I approached the start of this term with considerable anxiety. What I find so demoralizing is the apparent indifference of those involved in negotiations, in particular the Secretary of State, to the need to talk urgently and persistently until a solution is found to the dispute. There is no doubt in my mind that teachers are poorly paid, particularly if I am to recruit the quality of teacher whom you and I would wish to see at the school.

Teachers vary in how they try to present their case and I have no desire to identify for you differences of approach between the teachers' associations. There is enormous frustration among teachers that no one appears to be listening. Their dilemma is impossible.

On the one hand, they wish to take action in order to draw everyone's attention to their case but, on the other, they are reluctant to harm the education of their pupils. It is a measure of the staff's professionalism that in an autumn term of greater industrial turmoil than I have ever experienced in my time at this school, the staff helped at least 28 boys to gain places at Oxford and Cambridge

With the teachers' pay dispute still dragging on, Buckinghamshire headmaster John Loarridge sent this letter to all parents setting out its full effect

— which is easily the highest total in our history.

The effects of the industrial dispute are, in some ways, obscured from you because 85 to 90 per cent of the boys come to school by coach or train and I cannot, therefore, readily send boys home. However, I think that I should report to you as I shall report to the governors on some of the effects of the dispute.

● **Luncheon supervision.** I have not closed the school at lunchtime because of my anxiety about releasing junior boys, unsupervised, into the town, but the present position is uncomfortable owing to the low level of supervision.

● **Extra-curricular activities.** Much of the extra-curricular activity in the lunch hour and after school has ceased. This is so sad in a school such as ours for it should be a significant part of any scheme of education here.

● **Cover for absent teachers.** Associations vary in their response to this. I

cover for absent colleagues; this, in turn, makes it difficult for me to release teachers for in-service training, examiners' meetings and educational visits.

● **Staff meetings.** A whole cycle of staff meetings, heads-of-department meetings, sixth-form tutor meetings and year-tutor meetings, all of which are held after school, have ceased. These are important for the proper running of the school.

● **Parents' evenings and school reports.** These, as everyone knows, have been cancelled or curtailed.

● **General Certificate of Secondary Education.** I am most anxious that the new examination is properly and effectively introduced. Unless the Secretary of State, the local authorities and the teachers' associations resolve their differences, the examination will founder.

I am immensely proud of the achievements of the boys and the staff of this school. Both have my wholehearted support and I very much hope they will have yours.

I plead for an early resolution to the dispute.

Yours sincerely

John Loarridge is headmaster of Dr Challoner's Grammar School, a county secondary school in Amersham, Bucks.

Michael Hornsby on the likely tenor of today's speech responding to the mounting demand for change

Pressure on all sides — but will Botha crack?



of one, "very stubborn", and showing no signs of a man who felt the need to court the outside world's sympathy or goodwill.

This is causing concern in the business community, which fears that a repetition of the unyielding tone of the Durban speech could renew domestic unrest — it has shown some signs of wanting, if only through sheer exhaustion — and destroy the improving economic prospects. Their most immediate worry is a meeting of foreign creditor banks in London on February 20 at which Dr Fritz Leutwiler, a former governor of the Swiss Central Bank, will submit compromise proposals on the rescheduling of South Africa's debts.

Leutwiler was appointed by Pretoria to act as mediator between the government and the foreign banks. Towards the end of last year, South Africa proposed delaying loan repayments until 1990, a suggestion turned

down flat by 30 or so main creditor banks in December. Earlier this month, Leutwiler visited South Africa to discuss alternative schemes. The proposals he will table next month will represent his own attempt to bridge the gap.

Foreign bankers are under pressure from anti-apartheid lobbies in their own countries to take a tough line. That pressure is bound to intensify if Botha makes another evasive speech with no clearcut commitments to abolishing racial segregation or moving towards power-sharing with blacks.

The speech will also be closely studied by members of the Commonwealth "Eminent Persons Group" (EPG), which is expected to visit South Africa some time in February or March. EPG's seven members include Malcolm Fraser, the former Australian prime minister, Lord Barber, the former British Conservative Chancellor, Dame Nita Barrow, president of the World Council of Churches, and General Olusegun Obasanjo, head of the Nigerian military government from 1976 to 1979.

Its task is to report back to Commonwealth members by the end of June on the South African government's performance in meeting a number of objectives.

These call on South Africa to declare that the system of apartheid will be dismantled and to announce the steps to be taken to that end, to lift the state of emergency, to release Nelson Mandela, to lift the ban on the African National Congress and to initiate a process of dialogue across lines of colour, politics and religion.

If satisfactory progress is deemed not to have been made towards these goals, Commonwealth governments will meet to consider imposing new sanctions on South Africa. These could include a ban on air links, on the import of "cultural goods" and on contracts with companies which have majority South African ownership. Sanctions would be voluntary, but the moral and diplomatic pressure on reluctant countries would be substantial.

On past experience, it seems unlikely that the Botha government will be much moved by these threats. The President's speech, although it will probably be presented and packaged more diplomatically than "Rubicon", seems likely to do little more than confirm reforms already promised or indicated in the area of the new laws, black citizenship and property rights.

Little clarity is expected on the question of future political rights for blacks. Clear-cut reforms which could still make a big impression — such as the abolition of the Group Areas Act which segregates residential areas, schools and hospitals — has been ruled out in advance as non-negotiable once again.

Those abroad who have been prepared to give Botha the benefit of the doubt look likely to be disappointed again.

Why, then, do I watch it? For the sheer pleasure of listening to the commentators. The artistry and flair may have gone from the game at international level but it is still there in the rugby commentary. These fellows can

enthusiase and rave, gasp and roar, as if something exciting was really going on out there. Watching the game is nothing, but listening to it is terrific, such is their invention and imagination.

If it is a pleasure so far denied you, do watch the next rugby international and keep by your this check-list of commentators' phrases I have made, together with their real meaning.

● "Both sides know that a victory is absolutely vital." (This is going to be a totally defensive game.)

● "The tackling on both sides is absolutely terrific." (There hasn't been a single good run yet.)

● "They're really probing the defences." (So they have decided to kick instead.)

● "The referee has brought the play back." (The referee saw someone running with the ball and decided he must have broken a law.)

● "He was dispossessed." (He dropped the ball.)

● "The commitment on both sides is terrific." (They're standing on each other's faces where we can't see them.)

● "That had the makings of a wonderful movement." (A player ran 10 yards and fell over.)

Tom Wicker

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David Watt

Sanctions and sanctuaries

After weeks of wavering and argument, the EEC foreign aid last agreed on Monday to a joint policy towards Colonel Gaddafi of Libya — except that it wasn't really united and they couldn't even say publicly that it was aimed at Gaddafi.

There is to be an arms embargo against "any country implicated in supporting terrorism", but Greece, supported by Italy and France, refused to allow a specific finger to be pointed at Libya. There is a promise not to take advantage of other people's economic sanctions against terrorism, but again it is apparently not possible to state openly that the only "other people" in the case are the US or that the sanctions in question are against Gaddafi. The consequence of this piece of diplomatic finagling is that everyone is now permitted to make his own definition of terrorism and who is implicated in supporting it.

In the light of this pathetic performance, you may say, the Americans are utterly entitled to their violent expressions of disgust at the fecklessness, cynicism, and greed of their European allies. But what do the Europeans observe when they turn to the other side of the Atlantic?

President Reagan thunders denunciations of Gaddafi as a "flaky barbarian", sets his whole machine to disseminating to every corner of the globe the most lurid and demonic picture of the Colonel that propaganda can devise, cuts off all economic links with Libya and sends an aircraft carrier to the Gulf of Sirte to brandish a big stick under Gaddafi's nose. But the fact is that this is all fustian. The economic links are insignificant anyway. Trade is very small. As for American naval and air demonstrations off the Libyan coast, they represent a mild humiliation of Gaddafi, in that he obviously dare not try to prevent them, but nothing more.

The conclusion to be drawn from all this is banal. In a highly interdependent world nobody, not even a superpower, has very much freedom of manoeuvre. The reason the Greeks do not want to gang up on Gaddafi is less to do with commercial self-interest than with the fact that Gaddafi is a Soviet client, while they themselves are on the borders of the Communist block and have had, since the Second World War, a very strong Left.

The Italians have strong economic links with Libya: a quite large Italian population is, in effect, hostage there and the Libyans have a substantial stake in Italian industry, including 13 per cent of Fiat. By the same token, the reason the Americans dare not simply topple Gaddafi by a *coup de main* is that they would risk dangerous Soviet reactions and almost certain disaster in their relations with the rest of the Arab world.

It is this powerlessness, of course, which drives the Americans mad. It is Castro and the Ayatollah all over again. Here is the strongest nation on earth being deprived by a bad, half-mad, tinpot dictator and, goddam it, why doesn't the President do something about it? The argument that President Assad of

Syria is harbouring and helping far more terrorists than Gaddafi ever did means virtually nothing in the US. What matters is that Gaddafi has set up as a public enemy for a particularly virulent brand of Third World anti-Americanism.

This diffidence of perception needs much more careful handling than it has received so far. It was foolish of Reagan to advertise the division by sending John Whitehead, a deputy secretary of state, on a deliberately publicised tour of the European capitals to make open demands which everyone knew in advance would be refused.

It was equally idiotic of the Europeans to promulgate an EEC statement that might have been deliberately designed to rub salt in the American wounds. If the alliance is in poor condition it cannot either resolve or paper over its differences better than this.

The underlying problem here is the perennial difficulty of reconciling American and European views of the world. The US is engaged in a geo-political struggle with the other superpower and we in Europe are still groping, in the post-colonial era, for some way of defining just how far we are willing to go drawn into the arena on the American side. Nevertheless, while we are all making up our minds about this, there is no reason why we should not look a bit more coolly at the more limited question of terrorism, which is equally a menace to Europe.

Leaving aside the Utopian "solution", which is to cure the injustices from which terrorism arises, it is pretty clear what the main options are. One must deny terrorists an easy sanctuary and one must at the same time improve one's own defences against their activities. It is extremely difficult to eliminate all sanctuaries but it must be right to try to reduce them. But how? Neither Libya nor Syria can be forced to co-operate; they are not like "nests" of European corsairs which the US powers were eventually able to clean out by force but sovereign nations with powerful allies, notably the Soviet Union. The truth is that unless the US is prepared to allow the Russians back into the Middle East game in order to secure their beneficent influence with their clients, nothing very radical on the sanctuary front will come forth.

The alternative strategy of improving joint intelligence and tightening security among potential terrorist targets is often pooh-poohed as a second best, but the fact is that in spite of past declarations and promises, it has barely begun in earnest. Any top policeman who has had anything to do with it will bear witness to his franker moments to the thinness, not to say fatuity of most international co-operation in the past. If large amounts of money and co-ordinated political commitment can really now be poured in, far more may be achieved than by making evasive declarations in Brussels or by zooming up and down Libyan airspace.

Moreover... Miles Kington

Touchdown lowdown

When I was at school we played a game called rugby which involved a lot of running and passing the ball and scoring things called tries. When I watch television these days, I sometimes see men kicking the ball, kicking each other, blowing whistles and having things explained to them by the referee.

This, for some strange reason that escapes me, is also called rugby, though it seems only distantly related to the game I used to play.

Why, then, do I watch it? For the sheer pleasure of listening to the commentators. The artistry and flair may have gone from the game at international level but it is still there in the rugby commentary. These fellows can

enthusiase and rave, gasp and roar, as if something exciting was really going on out there. Watching the game is nothing, but listening to it is terrific, such is their invention and imagination.

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● "He was dispossessed." (He dropped the ball.)

● "The commitment on both sides is terrific." (They're standing on each other's faces where we can't see them.)

● "That had the makings of a wonderful movement." (A player ran 10 yards and fell over.)

● "A try is definitely on here." (The stand-off is about to try to drop goal and miss.)

● "What an exciting game this is turning out to be!" (The score is roughly level.)

● "Oh, my goodness me! Did you see that? (I didn't see it and I am about to look at it again on video.)

● "The referee must have seen something we didn't see." (I'm not very sure of the rules these days, and nor is the referee.)

● "While play has come to a standstill, let's see again the glorious moment..." (We'll replay film of the player running 10 yards and falling over.)

● "Oh, that was a really wonderful piece of artistry!" (The fullback has kicked the ball into the hands and into touch.)

● "He's heading for a place in the record books!" (He has kicked another penalty goal.)

● "It's not perhaps a classic game, but it's desperately exciting." (It's an incredibly boring game and the scores are still roughly level.)

● "The crowd is willing him to run with the ball." (He is going to kick the ball.)

● "That gives us another chance to see..." (Here comes that man running 10 yards and falling over again, but from a different angle.)

● "They now have a 16-11 lead out advantage." (I am reduced to reading out meaningless statistics.)

● "Nobody in the crowd is going to leave before the final whistle." (It's too crowded to move.)

● "You could cut the tension with a knife." (I have no idea what I am saying any more.)

● "It's a shame, in some ways, that the only try came from the losing side." (What a farce it all been!)

● "Finally, before you leave us..." (Yes, we're going to show you that man running 10 yards and falling over again, in slow motion.)

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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 With the present design a
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IT WILL TAKE OUR COMBINED STRENGTH TO DEFEAT ADVERSARIES SUCH AS THESE.

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And as each has its own thriving domestic brands, they won't be wearing Scotland's favours in battle.

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Our joint enterprise will give Britain a representative amongst the top four of the international drinks business.

It is also a rare dovetail of corporate talents.

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By careful targetting we can position our household names to complement one another, rather than compete.

Britain's recent industrial history is a catalogue of international opportunities missed.

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Profit fall at Shell despite record

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

Shell Oil, the American subsidiary of the Royal Dutch Shell Group, now wholly owned by the Anglo-Dutch company, has reported record earnings in the last quarter of 1985, but a drop in overall profits for the year. In the final quarter of last year profits were \$652 million (£465 million), \$71 million up on the same period in 1984. Overall profits for 1985 were \$1.60 billion, \$122 million less than the previous year.

Mr John Bookout, president of Shell Oil, said: "Over the past few weeks there have been exceedingly volatile price movements in the spot and future oil markets. This is a classic price reaction in a period of excess oil supply with both the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) and non-Opec producers struggling to maintain their market shares."

"The long-term implications of this are by no means certain. We have made no fundamental changes to our basic strategies or current investment programme." Shell Oil will spend \$3.9 billion on new projects this year, with \$3.1 billion of the total earmarked for exploration and development of oil and gas resources within the US and for further acquisitions by the company. Spending on developing oil products will total \$350 million and \$200 million will be spent on the company's US chemical division.

Weir rises on £9m forecast

Weir shares rose on the stock market yesterday after the group predicted a profit jump from £6.8 million to £9 million for 1985.

The Glasgow-based engineering group released its profit estimate for the 12 months to December 27 in connection with its bid for the neighbouring engineering company, Yarrow.

Dividends per share were estimated at 2.875p, up from 2.5 last time, and Weir shares rose 1/2p to 75p on the news.

The people who really count are the day-to-day managers

Beware of the BES big names

By Lawrence Lever

At the end of the tax year approaches, investors are likely to find they are bombarded with Business Expansion Scheme literature aimed at tempting them into parting with their money to claim last-minute tax relief.

This deluge is compounded by the fact that once you have invested in a BES company you are a marked investor. It is common for sponsors of BES issues to buy from each other their register of shareholders. The lists cost only £10 and there is a statutory obligation to supply them.

In view of the impending onslaught, and the lure of rapidly disappearing tax relief, it is especially important for investors to ensure they make the right choice.

A careful investor ought to take into account a number of factors in deciding where to put money. But first you must decide your investment priorities.

If you want your investment to reflect the spirit of the BES you are likely to want to avoid the substantial asset-backed schemes. In the main these are artificially created businesses, where a company structure has been wrapped round assets, usually freehold property.

Some, but not all, of the hotel and nursing/retirement home schemes fit into this category, as do one or two of the pub ventures. There are variations in degree, but all to some extent are abuses of the BES. The worst abuses however, the wine-based schemes, are now almost forgotten.

Recent examples of spirit-of-the-scheme companies seeking BES money are the Alan Paul hairdressing scheme, the Frew McKenzie antiquarian bookshop venture (now closed) and Hitch Lighting (also closed). They are generally in the minority.

Moreover you must remember that a scheme which shows a marked absence of asset-backing, and promises to create a number of jobs, may still be a huge rip off. Many risky but enterprising company ideas have been ruined by the greed of the sponsors, in wanting too great a stake at the outset and to take too much out of the company in the event of the company proving a success.

Most investors in BES companies are primarily concerned about the commercial realities, rather than the entrepreneurial aims of the Government's legislation.

This should not prevent them however from putting a small proportion of their money into these schemes and the rest into the safer propositions.

Indeed many investors put money into BES schemes, not for any commercial or entrepreneurial reason, but because the business of the company is one that captures their fancy. This, if you like, indulgence is facilitated by the availability of tax relief.

Looking at the so-called safe, asset-backed schemes, however, does not mean that you can afford to be haphazard in your selection. Many asset-backed schemes fit into the "rip off" category. And asset-backing is by no means a cure-all.

You should look carefully at the small print of the prospectus. The material contracts section should provide fairly full details of any commercial arrangements affecting the company and, in particular, those with people actually connected to it.

Look at the costs of the issue, the experience and record of the sponsor/financial adviser and the directors, and at those who will be involved in the company's day to day running and control.

There is a fashion for companies to wheel in well-known people who are paid a few thousand pounds to lend their names to a BES company in which they will have precious little involvement. Their presence in the prospectus will normally provide little extra to the success of the business, except in terms of its ability to attract investment.

It usually requires painstaking work to sort out the intricate incentive arrangements sponsors and directors allow themselves. These come in the form of share options or "A" shares triggered usually, but not always, by the company achieving a certain level of profitability. In the early days of the BES directors and promoters alike were reserving options or share arrangements which all but allowed them to plunder the company if certain profit levels were achieved. Thankfully these have more or less died out.

Investors in asset-backed schemes however should be wary of putting their money in companies where the options or special shares are exercisable at the same price as investors have to pay at the outset.

Asset-backed companies of this nature are to be avoided. There is no reason why investors should have to take the risk on a company's success, whilst sponsors/directors should be able to wait until the race is run before placing their bets.

Last, but by no means least, is the question of the investor's way out. As the first BES companies approach their fifth year, a number of small shareholders will be clamouring to get out.

Most prospectuses contain bland statements of intentions when it comes to an investor's choice of exit route. You should bear in mind that only a tiny number of BES companies will get anywhere near the Unlisted Securities Market.

The Over-the-Counter market option should also be taken with a pinch of salt. The success of an OTC market depends on finding willing buyers. Without tax relief available to the purchasers, markets are likely to be very thin and prices heavily discounted.

The stronger the statement of intentions, the better, but bear in mind that no promises are made. Some companies are only ever intended to have a five-year life.

US pressure grows for lower rates

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The US economy grew at a slower than expected rate of 0.9 per cent last month, fuelling speculation that the Federal Reserve Board will be forced to follow the example of Japan and lower interest rates.

Market analysts appear convinced that despite non-committal statements by the Group of Five nations after their London meeting this month, ministers did in fact take a decision to join together in lowering global interest rates.

"There is a strong anticipation that not only are our friends in Japan doing it but that other central banks around the world, West Germany and the United States, will be doing it too," said Mr Martin F. Fall, a senior vice-president of Julius Baer and company in New York. He echoed the views of many analysts that the G-5 group has become a powerful "club" of nations capable of influencing the world economy.

US Federal Reserve Board officials, who meet in two weeks to set annual monetary targets for 1986, have de-

clined to comment on either the results of the G-5 meeting or on their own deliberations prior to the closely monitored session of the powerful open market committee.

The new economic data released yesterday continued the pattern of recent months, revealing another record trade deficit of \$17.3 billion in December and slower than predicted growth. The 0.9 per cent gain, although the largest since 1.3 per cent last January, did not match administration predictions of a strong surge in growth at the end of last year. In addition, despite an estimated 10 per cent drop in the dollar's value against other currencies since September, US exports remain slack and the trade deficit continues to grow.

At the same time, the Treasury, anticipating continued deficit in the \$200 billion range, announced another record quarterly financing package. Treasury said it would raise the \$13.2 billion in new debt next week by selling \$5 billion of notes and bonds, redeem \$9.8 billion.

Call to encourage worker ownership

By Our City Staff

New tax incentives should be introduced to encourage employee ownership, according to a pamphlet published by the Public Policy Centre.

The authors, Mr Keith Bradley and Mr Alan Gelb, say that employee share ownership in Britain is insignificant compared with the United States. However, the extension of tax incentives to encourage employee share ownership should be accompanied by the following, the report says:

- There must be safeguards against the concentration of shares in the hands of just a few top managers. There should be no incentives unless shares are widely spread.

- Shares should carry full voting rights and their dissemination among employees requires a change of attitude promoted by a programme of education and a special effort of communication.

- Tax incentives should be temporary only and phased out as a scheme matures.

Among the benefits of employee share ownership, the Public Policy Centre pamphlet says, is that there should be less pressure for inflationary wage settlements.

The present collective bargaining system, in the absence of widespread employee share ownership, breeds such settlements even when there are three million unemployed.

Evered Holdings expected to bid for TI Group

By Our City Staff

Evered Holdings, the engineering group, has approached a number of City "heavyweights", including Sir Peter Parker, the former British Rail chief, to become chairman, a move which has fuelled stock market speculation that Evered is close to launching a takeover bid for TI Group, the Raleigh bicycles to Creta cookers company.

Mr Raschid Abdullah, who with his brother Osman runs Evered, said: "We have seen a number of people about coming on to the board, including Sir Peter Parker, but no decision has been taken. It is something you obviously need to take a lot of care about because you

have to work alongside them."

Sir Peter is chairman of Rockware, the glass making group.

Evered has been working hard to polish up its image in the City and has appointed two new directors since last September.

They are Mr John Ford, formerly of Berni Inns, who has become its first finance director, and Mr Roy Kettle, a group managing director of Tarmac, who is on the board in a non-executive capacity.

Meanwhile, Mr Raschid Abdullah said Evered was continuing to keep its options open, and had still made no decision on whether to go

ahead and bid or release its shareholding.

Mr Ronnie Uijer, the TI chairman, said: "I can think of no reason why our price has gone up. There are so many rumours floating around the stock market. But we certainly have had no contact from Evered."

Fisons, the pharmaceutical group, has made an acquisition which will enable it to manufacture and sell its range of anti-allergy drugs throughout Mexico. Fisons is paying £12.18 million for Bracco de Mexico, a Mexican pharmaceutical company.

Aspen Communications is expected to make a significant acquisition soon.

Ladbroke plans £80m shopping area face

By Judith Hamley, Commercial Property Correspondent

Ladbroke Group, the property, gambling and hotel group, is planning an £80 million shopping development in the heart of Bristol.

City and County Land, Ladbroke's retail property division, wants to redevelop the Broadmead shopping centre with a 300,000 sq ft scheme in partnership with Bristol City Council, which owns much of the land.

The scheme is an attempt to ward off competition from the out-of-town shopping centre planned by the Prudential at nearby Cribbs Causeway.

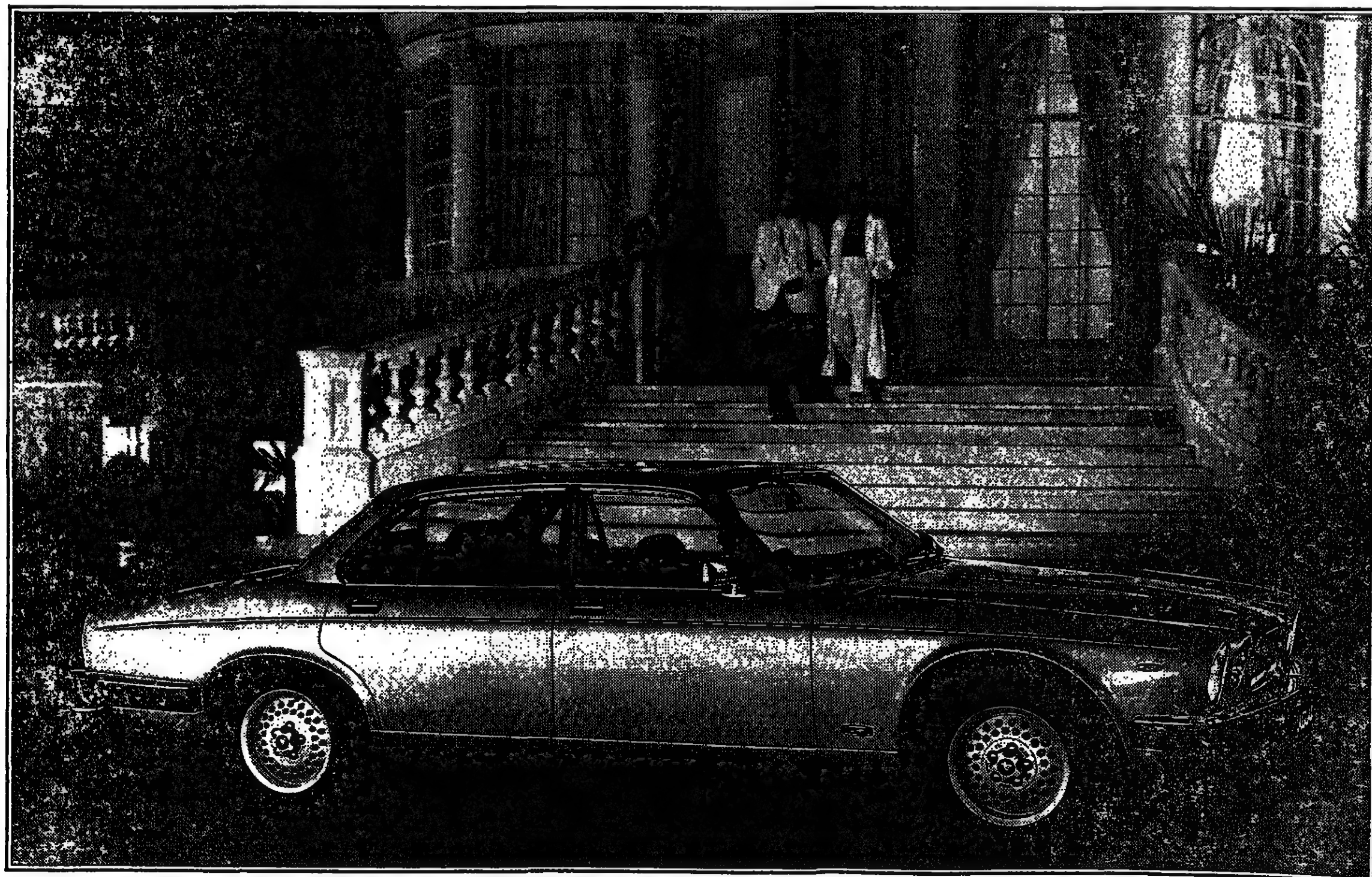
Ladbroke's plans involve building a covered shopping centre in a scheme which will cost around £65 million and

have an investment of £80 million. The group is talking to financiers about the funding, but it is possible that some syndicated finance will be used once the scheme is under way.

It will take three years to complete. Ladbroke has to obtain planning consent for its proposals.

The key will be its emphasis on specialty shopping geared to the fashion market. Large retailers such as Marks and Spencer and Woolworth already have stores in the centre of Bristol. M&S says it will stay in the town centre despite its plans to take a 150,000 sq ft store at Cribbs Causeway on the Prudential sites.

HOW RICHLY DO YOU DESERVE YOUR 1986 JAGUAR?



Opt for the Jaguar Sovereign, and you'll find its appointments an accurate reflection of your own achievements.

The ambience of hide upholstery. The quiet glimmer of burr walnut on dashboard and doorcappings. The inclusion of air-conditioning. The philharmonic quality of the stereo system.

The authority of a classic six cylinder, fuel injected 4.2 litre engine or the awesome 5.3 litre V12, both producing ample power to minimise driving hazards, and seemingly to diminish every

other vehicle on the road. The uncanny blend of balance and unobtrusiveness in handling.

For 1986, we've even managed some refinements. A somewhat lighter interior, employing doeskin pillar trim in place of the black used hitherto. The choice of four distinguished new exterior colours, with matching coach lines.

Headlamp wash/wipe as standard on both models. Etched stainless steel front and rear treadplates. (We make no apology. To a

Sovereign driver, the quality of the treadplates is of importance.)

And when you consider that a new Sovereign provides all this at a cost measurably less than that demanded for 'comparable' motor cars, you'll agree that the decision to choose a Jaguar is in itself a laudable feat.

After all, a Sovereign has always been a sound investment.

JAGUAR SOVEREIGN 4.2 307000 JAGUAR SOVEREIGN V12 427000. PRICES BASED UPON MANUFACTURER'S RRP AND CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. INCLUDE SEAT BELTS, CAR TAX AND VAT (DELIVERY ROAD TAX AND NUMBER PLATES EXTRA).

JAGUAR The legend grows.

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Walter Judd London Final Proof word 8412 28.1.86

See Shareholder

Among the financial results for the year, shareholders will be glad to see record earnings per share — 25.6p — and strong cash balances in excess of two hundred million pounds. In fact, everything's up, including — at last — the share price. Lonrho has had a good year.

The largest financial institution in Japan, Nomura, led a very successful convertible bond issue for Lonrho during 1985. We would like to be among the first British companies to establish stronger links with the great Japanese trading houses in the Pacific basin, and are researching opportunities to do so.

At the year end, pre-tax profits reached a new high of £158.3 million on a turnover of £2.6 billion. I am sure that shareholders will join me in appreciation of the sustained efforts which the Company has made worldwide. The vast majority of Lonrho's enterprises are growing individually, under enthusiastic long-term management. The Company welcomes shareholders, who, when they travel, take an opportunity to visit the estates, factories, and hotels of the Lonrho Group, in which they have invested.

Looking back over the year, I would highlight the excellent market progress of Volkswagen/Audi (U.K.). Sales of vehicles reached one hundred and twenty thousand. You may be less familiar with the name of Kühne and Nagel, the worldwide handlers and shippers, which has continued to make an astonishing recovery in the five years since joining the Group. The long-standing relationship between Kühne and Nagel and the countries of the Eastern bloc offers Lonrho many potential trading opportunities in future years, as trade between East and West is, in my opinion, on the brink of an expansion.

This year saw the conclusion of Sir Freddie Laker's claim against British Airways and other defendants in an out-of-court settlement in America. The happy association with Sir Freddie, which continues, has been and is of great value to the Group.

Lonrho has successfully led the financing of a 160 million U.S. Dollar development of the Ashanti mine in Ghana, which operates very productively with the strong support and encouragement of the Ghana Government. This input of additional capital will result in a production increase of fifty per cent., to over thirty thousand ounces per month, from one of the richest gold mines outside South Africa.

During the year, the Government of Mozambique invited your Company to study the reclamation of several large scale agricultural estates, as part of the programme to revitalise the economy. Shareholders will be pleased to hear that the pipeline through Mozambique to Zimbabwe has operated peacefully and profitably through the year, and is now additionally carrying aviation fuel. The nationalised tea estates in Tanzania were this year all returned to the Company, by a negotiated agreement which the Directors felt to be fair and satisfactory, and are once again under Lonrho management. Expanding in many countries, Lonrho continues to be Africa's largest food producer.

Over the twenty five years during which I have worked for your Company, the policy of continuous development and investment in Africa has proved a happy and rewarding one, in spite of the many forecasts to the contrary. Although Lonrho has expanded into the Americas and in Europe, yours is still the largest and most widely established Company on the African continent.

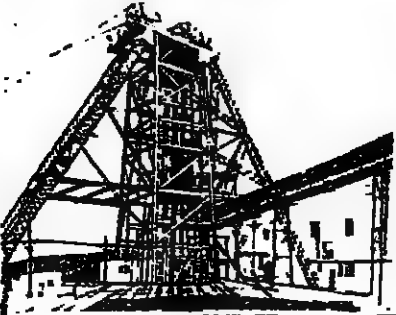
Reports of the various divisions of the Group follow, and outstandingly active sectors have been Hotels and Casinos and Mining and Refining, which I hope you will have the time to read. The Directors look forward to welcoming you at the Annual General Meeting on April 8th — a short film of the varied interests of the Lonrho Group is shown at 11.30 a.m., half an hour before the formal start of the proceedings, and new shareholders may find this a useful introduction.

MINING AND REFINING

For eight successive years we have increased platinum production. Further expansion planned for the end of this year will result in output of platinum group metals of 270,000 ounces, double that of 1981. Operating margins are excellent, and these will be further enhanced by the plant refining rhodium, ruthenium and iridium, and by the copper-nickel refinery just completed and now being commissioned. All these increases and improvements have been self-financed by funds generated from operations.

The present scale of platinum mining involves treating over 2 million tonnes

Shaft headframe — Western Platinum, Marikana.



Lonrho's pre-tax profits of over £158 million are a record for the group

R W Rowland, Chief Executive

of ore per annum and mining 120 acres of hard rock seam less than forty inches thick. In order to do this, twenty one miles of underground tunnels are blasted annually.

Group gold production has increased 5% to 419,000 ounces. In addition to the expansion at the Ashanti gold mine we are also increasing the production of three mines in Zimbabwe. The first of two large shaft systems to exploit the extensive gold reserves of Eastern Gold Holdings, the major new mine partnered by the Anglo-American Corporation, has been completed to a depth of 7,400 feet. Production is scheduled for April 1987, and will rise to exceed 400,000 ounces of gold annually. We hold 36% in this important mine.

AGRICULTURE

The results of the Group's seven sugar estates continue to be restrained by the low level of world prices and severe transport problems in Malawi, where two large estates are situated. However, profitability has improved with markedly good performances being recorded by the Swaziland and Mauritius operations.

In Malawi, the tea crop reached 4.6 million kilograms during the year, but there was a fall in the price of tea.



Rice being sprayed — John Holt Group, Nigeria.

In Kenya, sales of wattle extract amounted to over 4,700 tonnes. Other large-scale farming operations in East Africa are wheat, maize and seed maize crops, soya beans, coffee and coffee warehousing, root vegetables, dairy products and pork. In Zimbabwe alone sales from the herd were nearly 11,000 head of beef cattle. The total herd strength in Africa is now 110,000.

The farms and estates are so varied and widespread that they experience very different weather cycles, but it is possible to generalise to the extent of saying that rainfall — the critical factor in Africa — has been reasonable to good. We have recently reacquired a majority shareholding in the well-run Mufindi Tea Estates in Tanzania.

Kalanga Estates in Zambia was affected by unfavourable weather conditions and the poor performance of the dairy division.



Coffee picking — Vumba Coffee Estate, Zimbabwe.

HOTELS AND CASINOS

Major hotels in the popular tourist destinations of Bermuda, The Bahamas, and Acapulco form the Princess Group, wholly-owned by Lonrho. The



Moiani Kenya Safari Club — Kenya.

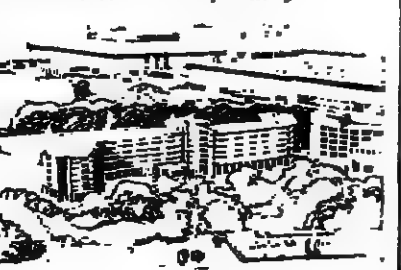


Birmingham Metropole.

strength of the dollar caused some drift of American tourists to Europe this year, but nevertheless profits were excellent at U.S.\$37 million.

The tremors experienced in Acapulco as a result of the Mexican earthquake did not injure the town or the Princess Hotel materially, and the company was able to assist in relieving hardship in the State of Guerrero by furnishing emergency supplies.

The policy of the Princess Group as a whole is to invest continuously in new facilities and up-grading, since our competitor for tourist business is the efficient hotel sector of the United States economy. This year a



Birmingham Metropole.

major programme began in Bermuda, concentrated on the luxurious Southampton Princess, where all the rooms will be further improved, and restaurants re-designed.

In The Bahamas the Princess Hotel has wholly taken over the management and ownership of the adjoining Casino, and with the energetic direction of Sir Freddie Laker has organised four special rate charter flights a day from the Southern States, which is proving very attractive to tourists. The Casino is designed to attract the fun gambler, and has a huge variety of "State of the Art" slot machines.

Among hotels belonging to the Metropole Group in the United Kingdom,



SEAT cars at London Motor Fair.

1985 AT A GLANCE

	1985	1984
Turnover	£2,586m	£2,367m
Profit before tax	£158.3m	£135.4m
Profit attributable to shareholders	£67.6m	£55.0m
Earnings per share	25.6p	20.9p
Dividends per share	12.0p	11.0p
Cash balances	£211m	£126m

The seventy-seventh Annual General Meeting of Lonrho Plc will be held at the Great Room, Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London, W.1. on Tuesday, 8th April, 1986 at 11.30 a.m.



MAN trucks from MAN, VW Truck and Bus — Sweden.

the London Metropole did best, with record profits. The Birmingham Metropole — by far the largest hotel in the United Kingdom outside the capital — was host to five hundred conferences, but the lower level of exhibitions during the year at the adjoining National Exhibition Centre somewhat reduced occupancy at Britain's top conference hotel. A new conference centre with the latest equipment is currently being added, to maintain this dominant position.

The results of the Casino sector fell short, in part attributable to the closure of Crookford's during the summer months for re-decoration. The directors and management feel that 1986 will be much improved. The ten clubs represent a large share of the United Kingdom casino market, with a combined "drop" of over £250 million last year.

MOTOR DISTRIBUTION

A number of new products were introduced this year, including a four-wheel drive Quattro option across the entire Audi range, and the desirable 16 valve Golf GTI and Scirocco.

The Group is also sole importer of MAN and Volkswagen commercial vehicles. Sales of MAN trucks were lifted by 40% compared to 1984. V.A.G (U.K.) achieved a record year in terms of both profit and volume of passenger cars and parts. The company increased its market share to just under 6%, to maintain its position as the leading importer of European cars.

Jack Barclay, the well-known distributor of Rolls-Royce and Bentleys, did well throughout the year. The distinguished Berkeley Square showrooms continue to be a London landmark for residents and visitors alike.

The Dutton-Forsyth Group distributes British Leyland vehicles and Jaguar cars, and has now commissioned a number of specialised locations for the expanding sales and servicing of Jaguars.

The launch of the SEAT range of cars in the United Kingdom occurred in November 1985 amid very favourable press comment.

Agricultural machinery has long been an interest of the Lonrho Group.

The "Glasgow Herald" is Scotland's leading quality national daily newspaper and, once again, Outram journalists have won numerous press awards, including "Journalist of the Year" and "Specialist Writer of the Year". The "Evening Times" also won the "Premier British Newspaper Design Award 1985".

The "Observer" consolidated its position and reputation.

The Group's provincial newspaper company, Scottish & Universal Newspapers, has had a highly successful year, with 18 of its 21 titles showing increases over the previous year.

All divisions of Holmes McDougall performed well, despite continuing difficult trading conditions.

Greenaway-Harrison, the security printers, continue to be the largest printer of Annual Reports and Accounts in the United Kingdom. The Lonrho annual report for 1985 received a merit award from the premier trade magazine "Printing World".

Harrison & Sons printed the stamps which won, for the third successive year, the "Premier International Philatelic Award" for stamp design and won Italy's "Golden Stamp Award" for the most beautiful stamp.

Following the acquisition of Wiggins Teape Orchard, the enlarged Harrison Decorative Papers is now the largest United Kingdom producer of printed decorative papers to the furniture industry with around 50% of the United Kingdom market.



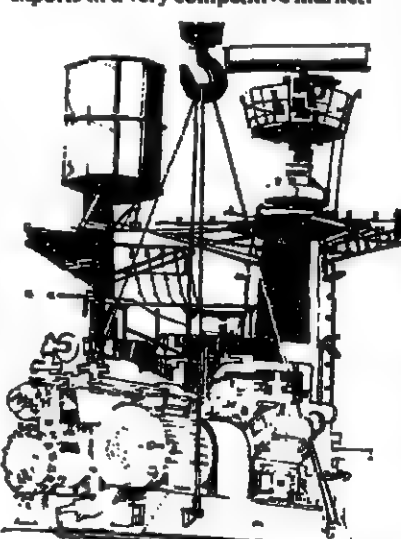
British Film Year commemorative issue by the British Post Office — 4 of a series of 5 stamps printed by Harrison — High Wycombe.

ENGINEERING

All the companies in the steel processing division of Firsteel earned a return on capital of over 30%.

Within the engineering division, Charles Roberts Engineering has introduced a general purpose tanker and an aircraft refuelling tanker, sales of which augur well for future growth. Tollemache is now established in the field of waste treatment and its conversion into fuel. Lightfoot Refrigeration enjoyed another very profitable year.

The Group's United Kingdom office equipment manufacturer, Sheer Pride, increased turnover and quadrupled exports in a very competitive market.



Compressor as supplied to the Royal Navy by Lightfoot Refrigeration — Weymouth.

In Zambia the construction company, Delkins, has just completed an excellent scheme in Kitwe comprising a shopping precinct and residential flats. Vitreco Paints has now entered the export market with sales to Zimbabwe. In Zimbabwe, W. Dahmer and Co. sold their locally manufactured buses and trucks well, with a number being exported.

PRINTING AND PUBLISHING

Circulation of the "Glasgow Herald" continued to grow throughout the year, culminating in a record September.



Main printing press at The Observer — St. Andrew's Hill, E.C.4.

The "Evening Times" also achieved significant circulation increases.

WINES AND SPIRITS

Whyte & Mackay has made sound progress, particularly in the international duty free market and has received the first "Duty Free Product of the Year Award" at the 1985 Tax Free World Exhibition.



Malt which is sold at Tannatol Glenlivet Distillers — Scotland.

The company has also developed a ten-year old single Highland Malt for Marks & Spencer. Independent research assesses Whyte & Mackay "Special" as the sixth largest Scotch whisky brand.

Whyte & Mackay has been unaffected by the industry's current stock surpluses. All three Highland Malt Distilleries have maintained normal working throughout the year.

Profits from French wine interests in Bordeaux and the Loire showed an encouraging improvement over the previous year. A continuing programme to improve the quality and reputation of our wines and to strengthen the marketing organisation throughout the world will yield benefits over the next few years.

The Group now operates 19 breweries in partnership with African Governments and municipalities, producing traditional high-protein beer.

In Zambia, the production of drinks from locally produced fruit, in addition to bottling Coca-Cola. The Group also operates three Pepsi-Cola bottling plants in Nigeria.



Chateau Reunion Sella — Bordeaux.

TEXTILES

Lonrho Textiles has improved further, substantially increasing profits over last year. This has been achieved through a strong retail performance from the company's 250 outlets, trading as Brentfords, Accord and John Wilson, and by increased efficiency in the factory.

David Whitehead and Sons' operations in the United Kingdom continued to do well with trading profits 29% ahead of last year extending a five year record of profit growth.

David Whitehead in Zimbabwe had a very successful year helped by a combination of buoyant local demand, increased exports and greater production efficiencies.



Dunsmuir textile machinery — Broom Barn, Kilmarnock.

In Malawi, David Whitehead increased its export revenue by 123% with over 11 million metres of cloth being exported to twelve countries.

KÜHNE & NAGEL

The Kühne & Nagel Group of companies, operated in partnership with Mr Klaus Kühne, had another year of excellent performance. Considerable contributions were made by Kühne & Nagel companies in Europe, Canada, U.S.A. and the Far East.

Kühne & Nagel is expanding its network of travel agencies by acquisitions and opening travel offices in a number of countries.

Kühne & Nagel have intensified their activities in countries where they anticipate an above-average growth of their market share, including China, India, Brazil and Scandinavia, where joint ventures and new offices have been established.

FINANCE, GENERAL TRADE AND AIRCRAFT

Baumann Hinde, the Group's cotton merchanting company, traded profitably in the face of an unstable market arising out of a large global cotton surplus.

The Group's insurance division, F.E. Wright, made significant progress in many areas of its business and current trading conditions are good.



Gulfstream III — one of the Group's aircraft.

John Holt's continuing operations had a reasonable year in spite of difficult trading in Nigeria.

The Group's property portfolio in the United Kingdom, comprising both residential and commercial property, has increased to £68 million.

Peter J. Hopkinson, the wholesale distributor of bathroom and kitchen equipment, was particularly successful in extending its sale of Philips built-in kitchen appliances.

Southern Watch & Clock Supplies have increased their market share during the year by providing an enhanced service in the trade.

Turnpan in Zambia, the largest supplier of mining equipment and spare parts to the copper mines, had a good year.

Lonrho is an agent in several countries for substantial American aircraft manufacturers. Our busiest agency is Beechcraft.

Yours sincerely,
R W Rowland

The text is taken from the Chief Executive's Statement and Review of Operations contained in the Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 September, 1985 which will be published in late February. Copies will be available from the Secretary, Lonrho Plc, Cheapside House, 138 Cheapside, London, EC2N 6BL.

LONRHO

Lonrho Plc, Cheapside House, 138 Cheapside, London, EC2N 6BL

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New issues market has cost firms millions, says Merrill

By William Kay

The City's new issue market has cost industry millions of pounds because of its inaccuracy and because of the need to give generous discounts to existing shareholders in companies raising new equity capital.

That is the view of Mr Stanislas Yassukovitch, an experienced City banker and the London head of Merrill Lynch, New York's biggest brokerage house. And he claims that his opinion is shared by a growing number of British companies.

Mr Yassukovitch predicts that the present system will be one of the principal casualties of the Stock Exchange's forthcoming big bang, and that change will be part of an increasing Americanization of the City.

Mr Yassukovitch said in an interview with *The Times*: "Clearly big bang and everything associated with it is designed to produce a securities market that will bear quite a close similarity to the US. It will require an organizational structure and a series of capabilities similar to that required in the US."

Chief among those capabilities, he argues, will be a new issue system based on Wall Street lines. He described the British method of raising new equity capital as the next shoe that has to drop.

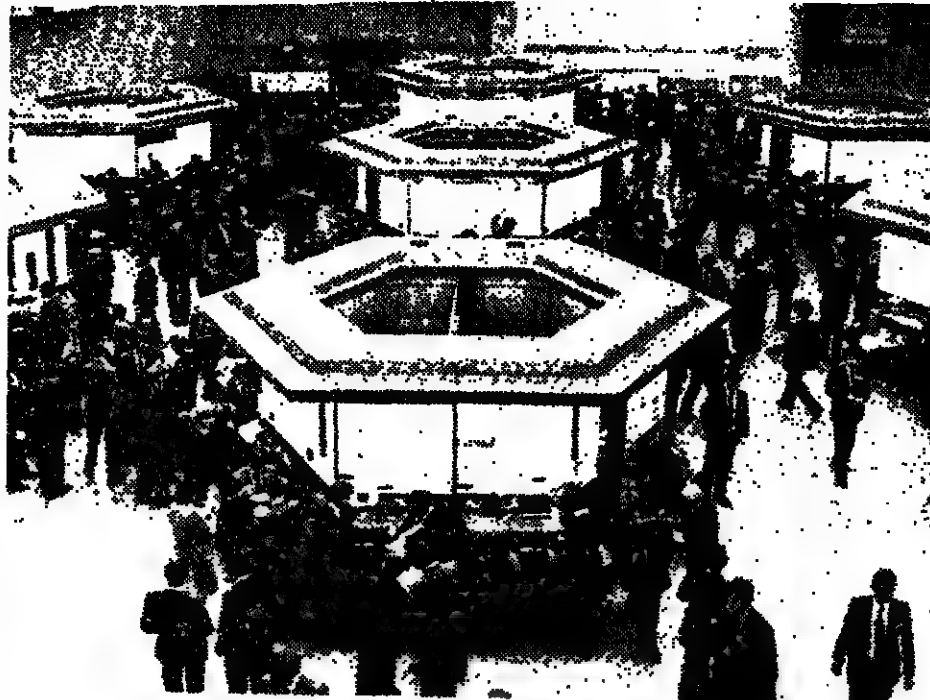
The British custom is for the merchant bank arranging a new issue to have it underwritten by investing institutions. That means that they agree to buy any

'The UK system does not allow for accurate pricing'

unwanted shares at a special discount, and they also receive a fee for providing this service.

If the shares are being floated for a new company, the price is pitched at a level designed to attract enough investors to take up the issue, so a discount is built in to take account of market fluctuations in the week or so between the prospectus being published and the deadline for applications.

If the shares are being issued by way of rights to existing shareholders, again a discount is offered to tempt those shareholders to add to their stake in the company.



The Stock Exchange - "destined to become Americanized with the big bang"

Either way, according to Mr Yassukovitch, the company is forced to accept a lower price for the shares than it really deserves, so denying it money which would be ploughed into the business.

"The system in the UK does not allow for accurate pricing," said Mr Yassukovitch. "New issues, including privatizations, are either grossly oversubscribed or flops. The US system is more accurate and produces higher average prices. The cost to British industry of a significant discount to the market has run into millions over the years. That is a major burden for UK companies competing overseas."

Like his counterparts in other American securities houses, Mr Yassukovitch has been doing the rounds of British company boardrooms extolling the virtues of the US system of bought deals and "red herring" prospectuses, issued in advance so that the issuers can gauge market opinion.

Bought deals involve securities houses in bidding for the new shares, which they then distribute to their clients and through the market. The house that makes the highest bid gets the whole block.

Mr Yassukovitch said: "There is a growing pressure from the UK corporate sector to change the system. They

are beginning to appreciate that the cost is too high and too advantageous to institutions."

City critics of the American approach point out that it is a cornerstone of Stock Exchange ethics to let existing shareholders have the first chance to buy new shares in their company. Some even argue that in those circumstances it does not matter whether the extra money goes to shareholders or the company, because the shareholders own the company anyway.

But that argument holds less water when a company is being floated on the stock market for the first time. The huge queues seen outside Barclays Bank for the launch of Laura Ashley last year were testimony to the amount of money that that company had to forgo.

It has not been lost on the City establishment that Merrill Lynch has a vested interest in wanting the system changed to suit them.

As Mr Yassukovitch put it: "The US houses organized on these lines are going to have a major competitive advantage which will more than compensate for the disadvantages we have - not being indigenous, not having the traditional roots of the domestic operators."

As part of that process, he agrees with Sir Kenneth Berrill, chairman of the

Securities and Investment Board, that the SIB will come nearer to the New York Securities and Exchange Commission than many in the City expect. But Mr Yassukovitch believes that further legislative changes will be needed before the system is finally in place.

"I do think there are some grounds for arguing that the Financial Services Bill represents an interim stage," he said. "There has to be some legitimate doubt as to whether self-regulation will

'There is growing pressure to change the system'

work. Not because of lack of integrity, but because the shape of the market is changing so quickly and the industry itself is simply not going to be able to cope with the changes."

He shares the widely-held view that British players in the big bang will require time to make their newly-merged combinations work. Brokers, bankers and jobs have already found that it is not easy to work together without a considerable amount of adjustment. And that gives the new American competitors in the City just the opportunity they need to carve out a niche for themselves.

£30m plan to expand festival garden site

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

Merseyside's Festival Gardens, already a premier tourist attraction that has drawn nearly 4 million visitors so far, is likely to become part of a leisure development stretching from New Brighton across the Mersey to the garden festival site.

Theme park attractions such as pleasure rides are to be added to the garden festival site at a cost of around £30 million under a development plan.

Negotiations are at an advanced stage for operation and development of the garden festival site by Transworld Leisure which together with the recently-formed New Brighton Development Company is involved in a £65 million renewal scheme for the faded Victorian resort of New Brighton.

A 40-acre waterfront theme park and a covered water park are included in the New Brighton plan. The scheme, announced last autumn, is expected to create at least 1,000 full-time jobs with as many again on a part-time basis.

When Merseyside Development Corporation started looking for a commercial operator for the garden festival site, Mr John Anon, managing director of Transworld Leisure, saw the chance of building the Liverpool festival into the overall plan to attract particularly families in search of a day out from a wide area of England and Wales.

If Transworld is selected to run the garden festival site, as now looks likely, some of the theme attractions at present planned for New Brighton are likely to be switched to the Liverpool side of the Mersey.

The original New Brighton plan called for an opening of the new attractions there by early 1989. The New Brighton scheme, which has outline planning permission from the Wirral local authority, will be split into a number of development packages, each attracting its own funding.

Although EEC grants can be expected Transworld will be looking for investment participation at a time when the City has been showing increasing nervousness over leisure developments.

Opec set for economic battle with West

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Even with world oil demand trimmed to the bone and all 13 member countries of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries selling much less oil than a decade ago, their combined revenue from 18 million barrels a day is considerable.

For that reason there is little sympathy among the Western public for Opec when it complains about its members' financial position.

However, next month Opec will be concentrating on how it can keep its revenues up and will be forcibly pointing out to the Western countries what they stand to lose if Opec's revenues collapse.

Opec is paying \$1 billion more a year than it did in 1983 in interest payments alone to the Western financial system, much of it coming to London, and next month it will seek ways of raising that bill.

Potentially worrying for

Britain is the suggestion that the Opec countries should restrict their imports. Among the oil producers' cartel the Arab Gulf states and Nigeria are significant importers of British products.

Iran's new oil minister has led the call for import controls with the Western world to be used as an economic weapon if non-Opec oil producers - such as Britain - refuse to cooperate. Iran has long had an export contract with the Coventry plant run by Peugeot, and Nigeria has under review several important capital projects in which British construction groups have large stakes.

Dr Fadil Chalabi, the acting general secretary of Opec, said that during 1984 Opec had "stoutly and single-handedly" attempted to defend the world oil price.

"Despite widespread scepticism in the oil industry

Opec succeeded in preventing a price collapse by strictly adhering to its decisions on production and pricing," he said.

"Despite these sacrifices, the North Sea producers, ignoring Opec appeals for cooperation to produce at maximum capacity and continue to sell as much oil as possible at prices which struck at the very foundations of Opec's precariously balanced price structure."

"It was against this background to the oil scene that 1984 ended. This picture is likely to remain the same in the years immediately ahead unless and until there is a general recognition of Opec's standpoint that market stability is in the interests of all producers, and that the price of that stability should be paid by all who benefit from it and not by Opec alone."

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

London Bicycle in top gear for shops expansion

By Rebecca Eliaho

Thirteen years ago, Mr Michael Dickson, a young insurance underwriter left the City to start his own bicycle rental company, much to the surprise of his friends, including Mr Peter Landau, a broker who also left his job the following year to become co-founder with Mr Dickson of the London Bicycle Company.

"The only reason I joined Michael," says Mr Landau, "was that he assured me I would be a millionaire by the time I was 30. He was grossly wrong."

None the less, annual turnover from the London Bicycle Company's two shops has now passed the £1 million mark and a venture-capital company, Baronsmead Associates, recently made available £175,000 to the partners under its Business Expansion Scheme.

In the next couple of years, the partners hope to open four more company-owned bicycle shops as well as four franchised shops within a 50-mile radius of London. The Designers Fitch and Company is working on a retail concept for the company to cover interior and exterior design, packaging and graphics. The London Bicycle Company stores will then sell everything from accessories and maps to specially designed cycling clothes.

Mr Dickson says: "We'll give each franchisee a week to learn about the bike trade, a week to learn about the products and two weeks working in one of our shops. Then they will be monitored over six months to iron out any problems."

Messrs Dickson and Landau learned the bicycle business the hard way. In the early 1970s a bicycle cost about £30 to buy and the partners let them at 75p a day, until they realized that people wanted to borrow bicycles only at the weekend. At this early stage they had losses of £8,000.

By the glorious summer of 1976, they had managed to extricate themselves from their difficulties and had started selling bicycles as a sideline. Their turnover had



Cycling team: Peter Landau (left) and Michael Dickson

reached £16,200 when they decided to commission their own range of bicycles from British manufacturers. Their Londoner bicycles now account for more than half the firm's sales. Manufacture is put out to tender every year to companies such as T. I. Raleigh, Dawes and Elswick Falcon.

The difference between the London Bicycle Company and most of the small high street bicycle shops is in approach. The partners view their work as a business rather than as a hobby; they are marketing-led rather than product-led. Three years ago they commissioned some research into what customers did and did not like about bicycle stores in general and used this to brief The Creative Business to produce a bright red-and-yellow layout for their two shops.

Mr Dickson says: "We re-launched the stores with a PR campaign and were lucky because there was a Tube strike and London Transport doubled its fares. It was the perfect time for selling bicycles." But to expand further, the company needed more money.

"We had started with £250 and had built up the business by trying to get banks to lend us money," says Mr Dickson. "We reckoned the whole market was there for the taking and set off to the City, having constructed a good business plan with our accountants."

As a small business, the company had always been restricted to high street banks for finance. Their business plan opened doors and allowed them to reach a high scale of finance by talking to senior people in City firms.

Hambros cover for exports

By Teresa Poole

Despite the sophistication of the currency markets, small exporters still face a risk when tendering for a contract in another currency.

Between submitting the tender and being awarded a contract - often a period of several months - the equivalent sterling value can fluctuate wildly, and profit margins can disappear.

The EXTRA service was devised by Mr John Heywood, a Hambros director, in response to his clients' problems, especially last year when the dollar moved in a range between 1.03 and 1.49 against sterling. "One of our customers put it to us beautifully last year. He said there were only two risks with a contract, one he didn't get it and the other he did."

Mr Heywood said. Now the EXTRA contract will provide the cash difference in the event of any fall in the dollar beyond an exchange rate threshold chosen by the client, with Hambros' advice.

lead to contracts. Under the Hambros system, about half of the initial charge is refundable if the tender is unsuccessful. In cases when the tender leads to a contract, traditional forms of cover such as options can then take over.

Up until now it has been possible to hedge such tenders using the currency options markets but for this a full fee has been payable even when such tenders did not

So the company will at the exchange rate in the market or the chosen threshold. The Hambros fee depends on the period of cover (which can be up to a year) and the threshold chosen. If the tender is successful, the client surrenders the option to Hambros. The bank makes its profit over a large number of such deals.

"Because we developed it in response to what the customers want, we have not fallen into the trap of developing something which is intellectually satisfying but off practical use," Mr Heywood said. To start with the service is only for dollar tenders but other currencies may be introduced at a later

COMPANY NEWS

Crystalate seeks new chief

Crystalate, the electronics group, is still looking for a replacement for its chairman, Mr John Levering, whose death fuelled speculation that the company could be vulnerable to a bid.

Mr John Herin, chief executive, who has temporarily taken over the chair, said: "We have a number of people in mind but no decision has yet been taken."

Crystalate shares are at present standing at 168p, having fallen from a peak last year of 240p. The company has faced severe pressure on its margins since one of its main customers, British Telecom, began adopting a more rigorous approach to its ordering policy.

However, its prospects are brighter and there is hope that one of its important customers, IBM, may be on the brink of placing a substantial order with the company.

WAGON FINANCE CORPORATION: Full-year figures (000s): Dividend nil. Turnover 24,254 (22,782). Pre-tax profit 3,333 (3,372). After interest 9,985 (7,855). Tax 1,394 (1,527). EPS 8.2p (7.8p).

MJ GLEESON: The chairman told the annual meeting that group turnover for the year to June 30, 1985, may slightly exceed the 1984-85 figure of £61 million, but the "work famine" in the public sector would prevent any early return to higher output. So the company is stepping up private sector activities, particularly in residential estate development and property investment.

MARLER ESTATES: Results for the six months to September 29, 1985 (000s): Turnover 1,938 (683). Operating profit 815 (589). Pre-tax profit 82.4 (55.2). Interest payable 540 (435). Tax 0.675 (0.675). EPS 1.80p (1.17p).

DAEJAN HOLDINGS: Results for the six months to September 30, 1985 (000s): Rent and service charges less property outgoings 3,926

(3,456). Surplus on sales of property and other income 3,603 (5,456). Financing charges and other expenses 2,144 (2,636). Pre-tax profit 7,385 (6,276). Tax 3,000 (2,600). EPS 26.87p (22.64p). Interim 5p (same). Indications are that full-year pre-tax profits will not be down.

BARCLAYS BANK OF BOTSWANA: The bank is planning a share offer which will place 10 per cent of an increased share capital in the hands of the public. The offer for sale will be for 750,000 new pl shares and will be made in the first half of this year.

IMPERIAL LIFE: New business issued in 1985 represented a company record with premiums totalling £28.1 million, an increase of 42 per cent on the previous year. Annual premiums increased by 14.3 per cent from £13.5 million to £15.3m, while single premiums rose 101 per cent from £5.3m to £12.6m.

ARGYLE TRUST: Results for 1985 (000s): Income 3,630 (3,175). Operating profit 604 (203). Pre-tax profit 604 (320).

Tax 201 (78). EPS 1.88p (1.87p) extract from consolidated accounts with the demerger of a former sub nil (11) expenses of capitalisation of co and its subs 30 (8) reorg. And other opns 40 (77) disposal of its property and assets costs 79 (28) disposal of assets (same) of Goodman and Sterling (Coventry) 963 (nil) attrit tax 3976 (29).

MEXICO FUND: Div of 4 cents per share, representing the fund's earnings for the fiscal year ended January 30, 1985.

SOUTHERN BUSINESS GROUP: In his annual report the chairman, Mr George Stewart, says high level of activity continues, and resulting expansion makes him confident of further progress this year.

A KESHAU AND SONS: Final 11p mkg 95p (15p) for yr to October 31, 1985 (000s): rev income after all charges 34,598 (5,062). Corp tax 54 (121). EPS 99.22p (14.15p).

KUNICK LEISURE: Results for the year ended Sept 30 1985 (000s): Turnover 3,543 (3,117). Trading profit 546 (668). Profit before tax 1,091 (652). Taxation 286 (284). Extraordinary charges 164 (nil). EPS 1.83p (1.42p).

M AND G: Yr to 30/9/85. Final 9p mkg 15p (12.5p), pay 27 Feb. figs in 000 Turnover 106,899 (86,396). Unpat. management and related activities - revenue 17,585 (12,816) less marketing and commissions 3,805 (3,869) and admin 5,464 (4,311) op profit 6,311 (4,616) assurance active - Surplus from long term insurance business funds 2,168 (1,739) op profit for group 8,484 (6,355) interest rec and inv income 1,652 (743) pre-tax profit 10,136 (7,098) tax 4,006 (2,436) extraord dnt nil (695) eps 32.93p (25.1p), assets per share 162.35p (136.45p), shareholders funds 30,261 (25,252) turnover represents revenue derived from the issues and sales of units, management and other fees and the premium income of the long-term insurance business funds. Shares up 15 at 840 after 850.

WIGGINS GRP: 6 months to 30/9/85: rev 1.1m, op profit £1.441m (1.265m), tax £585,815 (£501,041), earnings per share 9.47p (8.33p). Highly satisfactory trend in profitability has continued since half year end.

WINTRUST: Six months to September 30, interim dividend 1.8p (1.6p), pre-tax profit £1.441m (1.265m), tax £585,815 (£501,041), earnings per share 9.47p (8.33p). Highly satisfactory trend in profitability has continued since half year end.

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BASE LENDING RATES

ABN BANK	12 1/2%
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BBCI	12 1/2%
Citibank Savings	12 1/2%
Consolidated Crds	12 1/2%
Continental Bank	12 1/2%
Co-operative Bank	12 1/2%
C.Hoare & Co	12 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	12 1/2%
Nat Westminster	12 1/2%
Royal Bank Scotland	12 1/2%
TSB	12 1/2%
Citibank NA	12 1/2%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

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WELLCOME PLC

Offer by
ROBERT FLEMING & CO. LIMITED
S. G. WARBURG & CO. LTD. BARING BROTHERS & CO., LIMITED
 on behalf of
THE TRUSTEES OF THE WELLCOME TRUST
 and
WELLCOME PLC
 of up to
210,800,000 ORDINARY SHARES OF 25p EACH AT 120p PER SHARE
 payable in full on application

You are advised not to complete this Application Form until you have read the information on Wellcome plc and full details of the Offer contained in the Offer document dated 29th January, 1986 (the "Offer document"), which comprises published listing particulars with regard to the Company in accordance with The Stock Exchange (Listing) Regulations 1984. Copies of the Offer document can be obtained from the addresses shown herein. If you are in any doubt about what you should do, you are strongly recommended to consult your bank manager, stockbroker, licensed dealer, accountant, solicitor or other professional adviser. It is one of the terms and conditions of the Offer that in making an application you are not relying on any information or representation in relation to Wellcome plc or its subsidiaries other than as contained in the Offer document.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF APPLICATION

GENERAL

1. The acceptance of applications will be conditional on the Ordinary shares capital of Wellcome plc (the "Company") issued and now being issued being admitted to the Official List of The Stock Exchange and such admission becoming effective not later than the close of business on 21st February, 1986 and on the Offering and Underwriting Agreement referred to in section 4 of "Additional Information" in the Offer document (the "Offer document") dated 29th January, 1986 relating to the offer (the "Offer") made on behalf of the Company and the Trustees of The Wellcome Trust (the "Wellcome Trustees") of Ordinary shares of 25p each in the Company ("Ordinary shares") not being terminated in accordance with its terms prior to such admission. Money collected in respect of applications will be returned without interest if such conditions are not satisfied and, in the meantime, will be retained by Midland Bank plc in a separate account. If any application is not accepted, or is accepted for fewer Ordinary shares than the number applied for, the application moneys or the balance of the amount paid on application (as the case may be) will be returned by cheque through the post, in all cases without interest and at the risk of the applicant(s) concerned.

2. The right is reserved to present remittances for payment on receipt by Midland Bank plc.

3. By completing and delivering an Application Form, you (as the applicant(s)):

(i) offer to acquire from the Company and/or the Wellcome Trustees the number of Ordinary shares specified in your Application Form for such smaller number for which the application is accepted at a price of 120p per Ordinary share (the "Offer price") and on the terms and subject to the conditions set out herein and in the Offer document and subject to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company;

(ii) authorise Midland Bank plc to send one or more Letters of Acceptance for the number of Ordinary shares for which your application is accepted and/or a crossed cheque for any moneys returnable, by post, at the risk of the person(s) entitled thereto, to your address (or, in the case of joint applicants, that of the first-named applicant) as set out in your Application Form and to procure that your name (together with the name(s) of any other joint applicant(s)) is/are placed on the register of members of the Company in respect of such Ordinary shares the entitlement to which has not been effectively renounced;

(iii) agree that, in consideration of the Company and the Wellcome Trustees agreeing that they will not, prior to 22nd February, 1986, sell any of the Ordinary shares the subject of the Offer to any person other than by means of the procedures referred to in the Offer document, your application cannot be revoked until after 22nd February, 1986 and that this paragraph shall constitute a collateral contract between you and the Company and the Wellcome Trustees which will become binding upon despatch by post, to, or in respect of applications delivered by hand, receipt by, Midland Bank plc of your application;

(iv) agree that due completion and delivery of an Application Form shall constitute a warranty by you that the remittance accompanying it will be honoured on first presentation;

(v) agree that any Letter of Acceptance and any moneys returnable to you may be retained by Midland Bank plc pending clearance of your remittance;

(vi) agree that all applications, acceptances of applications and contracts resulting therefrom under the Offer shall be governed by and construed in accordance with English law;

(vii) warrant that, if you sign an Application Form on behalf of somebody else, you have due authority to do so;

(viii) confirm that in making your application, you are not relying on any information or representation in relation to the Company or its subsidiaries other than such as may be contained in the Offer document and you accordingly agree that no person responsible solely or jointly for the Offer document or any part thereof shall have any liability for any such other information or representation;

(ix) agree that, in respect of those Ordinary shares for which your application has been received and is not rejected, notification to The Stock Exchange of the basis of allocation shall constitute acceptance of your application on that basis;

(x) warrant that you are not acting in concert with any other person or persons in relation to this application with a view to any one person, or persons acting in concert with that person, acquiring beneficially more than 21,070,000 Ordinary shares as a consequence of allocations made pursuant to the Offer and that no other application is being made by you for your own account or by another on your behalf for such purpose or, if you are applying as agent or nominee of another, that other person is not to your knowledge acting in concert with any other person or persons as aforesaid;

(xi) warrant that you are not a US person (as defined in paragraph 6 below) and are not applying on behalf of, or with a view to resale to, a US person;

(xii) agree that the Wellcome Trustees are offering the shares being sold by them in their capacity as the present trustees of The Wellcome Trust (but not otherwise) and on the basis that their obligations shall be enforceable against the trustees of The Wellcome Trust from time to time and shall be binding upon the assets of The Wellcome Trust and that the liabilities of such trustees under or in consequence of the Offer or the sale of any of the Wellcome Trustees' Ordinary shares to you shall be limited to such liabilities as can lawfully be met out of the net assets of The Wellcome Trust for the time being in their hands or under their control and that in addition any liability shall be limited to the amount of the Offer price of the Ordinary shares sold to you and interest thereon at Midland Bank plc's published base rate from time to time to the date of payment; and

(xiii) agree that any contract made by acceptance (whether in whole or in part) of any application shall constitute a separate contract for the purchase or subscription of each of the offered Ordinary shares, and these terms and conditions shall be construed accordingly.

4. The basis of allocation will be determined by Robert Fleming & Co. Limited ("Robert Fleming") in its absolute discretion after consultation with S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd., Baring Brothers & Co., Limited and the Company. An applicant may be allocated Ordinary shares sold by the Wellcome Trustees and/or new Ordinary shares issued by the Company as Robert Fleming may in its absolute discretion determine. In addition to the application of the provisions of paragraph 3(iii) above, in accordance with normal principles of English law, the remedies available to persons contracting with the Wellcome Trustees in relation to Ordinary shares sold by the Wellcome Trustees may differ from the remedies available to those contracting with the Company in relation to new Ordinary shares issued by the Company. There is no maximum in respect of the number of Ordinary shares for which a single application may be made, but the right is reserved to reject in whole or in part, or to scale down, any application including multiple or suspected multiple applications. In particular, Robert Fleming has undertaken with the Wellcome Trustees and the Company that without the consent of the Company it will not knowingly permit more than 21,070,000 Ordinary shares to be allocated to any person or persons appearing to it to be acting in concert pursuant to the Offer and your attention is drawn to the warranty in paragraph 3(x) above.

5. Up to 21,080,000 Ordinary shares (representing 10 per cent. of the maximum number of Ordinary shares being offered) are reserved in the first instance for allocations to full-time employees in the UK, the US and certain other countries, certain former employees of the Company and its subsidiaries, employees of The Wellcome Trust, non-executive Directors of the Company (other than Sir Michael Butler) and of certain of its subsidiaries and retired directors of The Wellcome Foundation Limited and Burroughs Wellcome Co. (the "Preferred Applicants"). Such shares are being made available under the

Offer and the US Employee Offering referred to in section 5 of "Additional Information" in the Offer document. From this number, all applications received in respect of the Matching Offer, the US Free Offer and the Coopers Animal Health Inc. Special Offer referred to in the above mentioned section 5 will be met in full. The remaining reserved shares will be allocated to Preferred Applicants who make applications therefor on special forms provided for them, subject to the applicable limit on the number of Ordinary shares that may be allocated to an individual on a preferential basis (as described in the above mentioned section 5) and subject to scaling down in the event of over-application. The basis of allocation to Preferred Applicants under the Offer and the US Employee Offering will be the same, save that US applicants may not be allocated in aggregate more than 42,800,000 Ordinary shares.

OVERSEAS SHAREHOLDERS

6. No person receiving a copy of the Offer document or the Application Form in any territory other than the UK may treat the same as constituting an invitation or offer to him, nor should he in any event use such form, unless in the relevant territory such an invitation or offer could lawfully be made to him or such form could lawfully be used without contravention of any registration or other legal requirements. It is the responsibility of any person outside the UK wishing to make an application under the Offer to satisfy himself as to full clearance of the laws of any relevant territory in connection therewith, including the obtaining of any governmental or other consents which may be required and compliance with any other formalities in such territory, and to pay any transfer or other taxes requiring to be paid in such territory in respect of Ordinary shares acquired by him under the Offer.

The Ordinary shares offered pursuant to the Offer have not been, and will not be, registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended. Accordingly, such shares may not be offered, sold, renounced or transferred, directly or indirectly, in the United States or to or for the benefit of any US person or to any person purchasing such shares for re-offer, resale, renunciation or transfer in the United States or to or for the benefit of any US person as part of the distribution of such shares. Applications under the Offer will incorporate a warranty under paragraph 3(ii) above that the applicant is not a US person and is not applying on behalf of or with a view to resale to a US person. Registration application forms on Letters of Acceptance will contain a warranty to the same effect by or on behalf of the persons in whose names the Ordinary shares are to be registered. "US person" means any national or resident of the United States or the estate or trust of any such person, any corporation, partnership or other entity created or organised in or under the laws of the United States, or any political sub-division thereof, and any United States branch of a non-US person. "United States" means the United States of America, its territories and possessions.

LISTING AND DEALING ARRANGEMENTS

The Application List will open at 10.00 a.m. on 7th February, 1986 and may be closed at any time thereafter. The basis on which applications have been accepted will be announced as soon as practicable after the Application List closes. It is expected that Letters of Acceptance will be posted to successful applicants on 13th February, 1986 and that dealings in the Ordinary shares will commence on 14th February, 1986. Dealings prior to receipt of Letters of Acceptance will be at the risk of applicants. A person so dealing must recognise the risk that his application may not have been accepted to the extent anticipated or at all.

Different Letters of Acceptance will be issued in respect of shares allocated which are existing Ordinary shares being sold by the Wellcome Trustees (the "Trustees' Shares") and in respect of new Ordinary shares being issued by the Company (the "Company's Shares"). Letters of Acceptance in respect of the Trustees' Shares will be white and those in respect of the Company's Shares will be yellow. Separate Letters of Allotment coloured green will be issued in respect of the US Employee Offering. The last date for registering renunciations will be the same in respect of both types of Letters of Acceptance and in respect of Letters of Allotment and arrangements are being made for all dealings on The Stock Exchange to be on the basis that a bargain for the sale or purchase of any of the Ordinary shares being offered can be effected by delivery of a renounceable Letter of Acceptance in respect of either the "Trustees' Shares" or the Company's Shares or by a Letter of Allotment in respect of the US Employee Offering. However, consolidation of one type of Letter of Acceptance with the other or with a Letter of Allotment or vice-versa will not be possible.

Dealings on The Stock Exchange normally take place for settlement on the second Monday after the close of The Stock Exchange account in which the bargain is made. This account is a period of two (or occasionally three) weeks. Settlement is made against documents of title and duly executed stock transfer forms. However, until 28th March, 1986, the period while Letters of Acceptance and Letters of Allotment remain renounceable, dealings will take place for settlement due on the business day following the day of the bargain against delivery of duly renounced Letters of Acceptance or Letters of Allotment. Subject to acceptances becoming unconditional, the Ordinary shares now being offered will be registered, free of stamp duty and registration fees, in the names of (physical or persons) in whose favour Letters of Acceptance are duly renounced provided that, in cases of renunciation, Letters of Acceptance (duly completed in accordance with the instructions contained therein) are lodged for registration by 3.00 p.m. on 28th March, 1986. Share certificates will be despatched on, or as soon as possible after, 28th April, 1986.

Copies of the Offer document, and Application Forms may be obtained from:

Robert Fleming & Co. Limited
 8 Crosby Square
 London EC3A 6AN

S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.
 33 King William Street,
 London EC4R 9AS

Baring Brothers & Co., Limited
 9 Bishopsgate,
 London EC2N 4AE

the following branches of Midland Bank plc
 London
 Stock Exchange Services
 Department,
 Mariner House, Peppys Street,
 London EC3N 4DA.

Birmingham
 130 New Street,
 Birmingham B2 4JU

Bristol
 19 Corn Street,
 Bristol BS9 7PP

Cardiff
 114 St. Mary Street,
 Cardiff CF1 1LF

Leeds
 33 Park Row,
 Leeds LS1 1LD

the following branches of Clydesdale Bank PLC
 Edinburgh
 29 George Street,
 Edinburgh EH2 2YN

and the following branch of Northern Bank Limited
 Belfast
 Donegal Square West,
 Belfast BT1 6LT

PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION

The following notes form part of, and should be read in conjunction with, the terms and conditions of application set out in the Offer document and reproduced herein and with the Application Form. Photostat copies of Application Forms will not be accepted.

1. Insert in Box 1 (in figures) the number of Ordinary shares for which you are applying. Applications must be for a minimum of 200 Ordinary shares or in one of the following multiples:

- for more than 200 shares, but not more than 500 shares, in a multiple of 100 shares
- for more than 500 shares, but not more than 5,000 shares, in a multiple of 500 shares
- for more than 5,000 shares, but not more than 20,000 shares, in a multiple of 1,000 shares
- for more than 20,000 shares, but not more than 50,000 shares, in a multiple of 5,000 shares
- for more than 50,000 shares, in a multiple of 10,000 shares.

2. Put in Box 2 (in figures) the amount of your payment.

3. Sign and date the Application Form in Box 3. The Application Form may be signed by someone else on your behalf (and/or on behalf of any joint applicant(s)) if duly authorised to do so, but the power(s) of attorney must be enclosed for inspection. A corporation should sign under the hand of a duly authorised official whose representative capacity must be stated. See note 7 for other joint applicants.

4. Put your full name and address in BLOCK CAPITALS in Box 4. See note 6 for other joint applicants.

5. You must pin to the completed Application Form a separate cheque or bankers' draft for the full amount payable. Your cheque or bankers' draft must be made payable to "Midland Bank plc" for the amount payable on application and should be crossed "Not Negotiable".

No receipt will be issued for this payment which must be solely for this application.

Your cheque or bankers' draft must be drawn in sterling on an account at a branch (which must be in the UK, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man) of a bank which is either a member of the Cheque and Credit Clearing Company Limited or the Committee of Scottish Clearing Bankers or which has arranged for its cheques and bankers' drafts to be presented for payment through the clearing facilities provided for the members of that company or that Committee (and must bear the appropriate sorting code number in the top right hand corner).

Applications may be accompanied by a cheque drawn by someone other than the applicant(s), but any moneys to be returned will be sent by crossed cheque in favour, and to the address, of the person named in Box 4.

6. You may apply jointly with up to three other persons.

If you do so you must then arrange for the Application Form to be completed by or on behalf of each such joint applicant. Their full names and addresses should be put in BLOCK CAPITALS in Box 4.

Letters of Acceptance in the names of joint applicants will be sent to the applicant named in Box 4.

7. Box 7 must be signed by or on behalf of each joint applicant (other than the first applicant who should sign in Box 3 and complete Box 4). If any person is signing on behalf of a joint applicant, the power of attorney must be enclosed for inspection.

■ You must send the completed Application Form together with the cheque or bankers' draft by post, or deliver it by hand, to Midland Bank plc, Stock Exchange Services Department, Mariner House, Peppys Street, London EC3N 4DA so as to be received not later than 10.00 a.m. on 7th February, 1986. If you post your Application Form, you are recommended to use first class post and allow at least two days for delivery.

APPLICATION FORM

WELLCOME PLC

I/We offer to acquire

Ordinary shares
 of 25p each

1 in Wellcome plc at the Offer price of 120p per Ordinary share payable in full on application on the terms and conditions of application set out in the Offer document dated 29th January, 1986

and I/we attach a cheque or bankers' draft for the amount payable, namely

£

2 (being 120p multiplied by the number of Ordinary shares inserted in Box 1).

Signature

Dated

1986

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

Mr., Mrs., Miss or title

Forename(s) in full

Surname

Address in full

Postcode

Pin here your cheque/bankers' draft for the amount in Box 2

Fill in this section only when there is more than one applicant. The first or sole applicant should sign in Box 3 and complete Box 4. Insert below only the names and addresses of the second and subsequent applicants, each of whose signature, or the signature of the person signing on their behalf, is required in Box 7.

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

Mr., Mrs., Miss or title

Forename(s)

Surname

Address

Postcode

Signature

Signature

Signature

The Application List will open at 10.00 a.m. on 7th February, 1986 and may be closed at any time thereafter. The completed Application Form together with a cheque or bankers' draft for the amount payable should be posted, or delivered by hand, to Midland Bank plc, Stock Exchange Services Department, Mariner House, Peppys Street, London EC3N 4DA so as to be received not later than that time. Any person signing this Form under a power of attorney must enclose that power of attorney for inspection.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

1. Acceptance No.

2. Shares allocated

3. Amount received

£

4. Amount payable

£

5. Amount returned

£

6. Cheque No.

7. Split Registration

هكزان الفيل

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Price	Change	%	YTD
BUILDING AND ROADS					
1	Atwoods	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
2	Benson (NU)	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
3	Brickwork	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
4	Higgs & Hill	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
5	Haywood Williams	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
6	Providence	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
7	Podkins	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
8	Reilly	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
9	Redland	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
10	Ames	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
INDUSTRIALS A-D					
11	Dalrymple	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
12	British Petroleum	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
13	By Vite	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
14	Brinsford Inds	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
15	Barham	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
16	BTR	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
17	British Steel	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
18	Black (Peter)	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
19	Barlow Rand	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
20	Crown House	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
ELECTRICALS					
21	Case	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
22	Flint Castle Bact	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
23	MK Elect	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
24	Thorn EMI	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
25	Artes	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
26	Cable & Wireless	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
27	Kodak	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
28	Plessey	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
29	Ferranti	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
30	Electrocompacts	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
FOODS					
31	British Dairy	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
32	Tesco	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
33	Martin & Paddock	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
34	RHM	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
35	Rowntree Mac	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
36	Kwik Save	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
37	Morrisons (W)	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
38	Tate & Lyle	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
39	Dee	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11
40	ASDA-MFI	1.10	0.01	0.9	1.11

Weekly Dividend					
Company	Dividend	YTD	Change	%	YTD
Atwoods	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.9	0.01
Benson (NU)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.9	0.01
Brickwork	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.9	0.01
Higgs & Hill	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.9	0.01
Haywood Williams	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.9	0.01
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Redland	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.9	0.01
Ames	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.9	0.01

BANKS DISCOUNT HP					
Company	Dividend	YTD	Change	%	YTD
Atwoods	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.9	0.01
Benson (NU)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.9	0.01
Brickwork	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.9	0.01
Higgs & Hill	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.9	0.01
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**SUNDAY
TIMES**

JANUARY 31, 1986

By Malcolm Brown

THE TIMES
FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT ON
ANCHOR HOUSING/1

A home from home for the silent few

The Vice Chancellor of Warwick University, Dr Clark Brundin, who chairs Anchor Housing, said: "Between 1950 and the year 2000, the number of retired people will have risen from 6.7 million to 10.1 million. It's a phenomenal change in scale."

By no stretch of the imagination is enough provision being made for this change. Anchor and its associated organizations have between them built 20,000 sheltered homes for older people, but the funding of such schemes is becoming more and more difficult.

The trouble, says Michael Corp, group director of Anchor, is that the old simply are not and never could be effective lobbyists in their own cause.

"They are less physically active; they are not economically active and politically they are not a coherent group." Because the voices of

the old are by and large not heard — and are certainly not backed by anything like the political clout that other interest groups in the community can muster — there is a tendency for those in power to make sympathetic noises, but to procrastinate when it comes to practical measures.

There seems to be no lack of goodwill, but a marked deficiency of political will. Perhaps, as a past chairman of Anchor put it, this is because housing is never "critically urgent" — unlike appendicitis, a Falklands war, or a miners' strike, things can usually go on a bit longer.

"There is a chain of deprivation," says Michael Corp. "Old housing in poor condition is more likely to be occupied by old people and poor housing has an effect on their health and their ability to cope."

More money is essential, he says. If it is not forthcoming, the results will show up rapidly for groups such as Anchor. He adds: "Public sector provision through local authorities or through housing associations, funded as we are by the Housing Corporation, is subject to a careful downward spiral of funding."

New commitments to public sector sheltered housing in the coming year will be the lowest ever, and this means that in two years' time, less sheltered housing will be built than for many years past.

Nor, he believes, will private-sector developers be able to take up the slack, despite the recent boom in retirement housing.

Dr Brundin believes that if we do not get to grips with the problem of the elderly soon we may, quite literally, live to regret it. If the years up to the turn of the century look daunting, he forecasts that the following 20 years will see even greater changes.

"In 2020", he says, "nearly one in four of Britain's population will be over retirement age, and possibly one in 10, five million, will be over 75."

"Each one of us has a vested interest in growing old," says Dr Brundin, "and housing is central in the life of old people."

THE ANCHOR FAMILY

The organizations are: Anchor Housing Association builds sheltered housing for rent. It operates throughout England and has a strong regional presence with offices in Altrincham, Merseyside, Newcastle upon Tyne, Bradford, Nottingham, London, Bath, Birmingham.

Guardian Housing Association builds sheltered housing for sale and is a subsidiary of Anchor Housing Association with which it shares the same voluntary board.

Anchor Housing Trust investigates new ways in which the housing needs and problems of older people may be met and fund raises for the Anchor family.

There are three sister organizations: Bield Housing Association, Corian Housing Association and Feld Housing Association which carry out similar work to Anchor in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.



Anchor people: Mr and Mrs Symmonds relax in their Anchor home in Vauxhall Bridge Road; Mrs Norfolk at the cooker in her bedsit; Michael Corp (left), group director; and a resident at Highfield House, Bradford



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Soothing the anxieties

The elderly can occasionally be surprisingly ruthless in their attitudes to others. There is a strong feeling among tenants in Anchor flats that any tenant who becomes seriously ill should be moved completely away from the sheltered accommodation.

University of East Anglia sociologist Graham Fennell, whose survey of more than 800 tenants on Anchor schemes will be published later this year, got a very strong response to the question: "What should happen to tenants who become very poorly?"

Nearly half said that the very poorly tenants should be moved from the sheltered accommodation. They should not stay in their flat, nor even be moved to a flat in a special wing.

Replies to a supplementary question: "How does Anchor treat tenants who are very poorly?" produced an important response, not so much in the majority opinion that Anchor was "very good to them" as for the 38 per cent who replied, "Don't know."

"This very high 'don't know' response far exceeds that to any other question and this is significant," says Mr Fennell. "Many tenants genuinely don't know be-

cause the issue has not arisen during their tenancy, but the response also suggests a degree of uneasiness."

Mr Fennell says that although it was a potentially distressing subject, the researchers felt they had to probe further to find out if tenants were worried about their own personal future.

One not uncommon anxiety is that the sheltered housing tenants may be more vulnerable to being moved out than if they had stayed at home, simply because the warden is by the nature of her job, well-connected with the health and social services bureaucracy. Nearly a third were anxious they would not be able to manage.

Anchor researchers last year took a closer look at tenants who had moved out to further care over a three-month period. They turned out to number 100 tenants which, extrapolated over a full year, would be 2.4 per cent of the Anchor tenant population — smaller than would normally move from the general "elderly" population.

"We also found that the age at which people are moving from sheltered housing into further care is on average about 84 which, again, is significantly higher," says Richard Bettesworth,

director of the Anchor Housing Association.

"So, on those two grounds alone, the researchers have surmised that living in sheltered housing does defer, if not prevent totally, the need for many people to move on into further care."

Of the 100 who made a move, about two thirds had mental deterioration.

The indications seem to be says Mr Bettesworth, that the physical handicaps and disabilities of elderly tenants can be coped with more easily than the problems of mental deterioration.

"It's not that the old lady with mental deterioration needs a lot of active treatment or help, but she does need a lot of watching."

Mr Bettesworth says that Anchor is very aware of the fear that tenants have of becoming incapacitated to the extent that they may have to leave the sheltered housing.

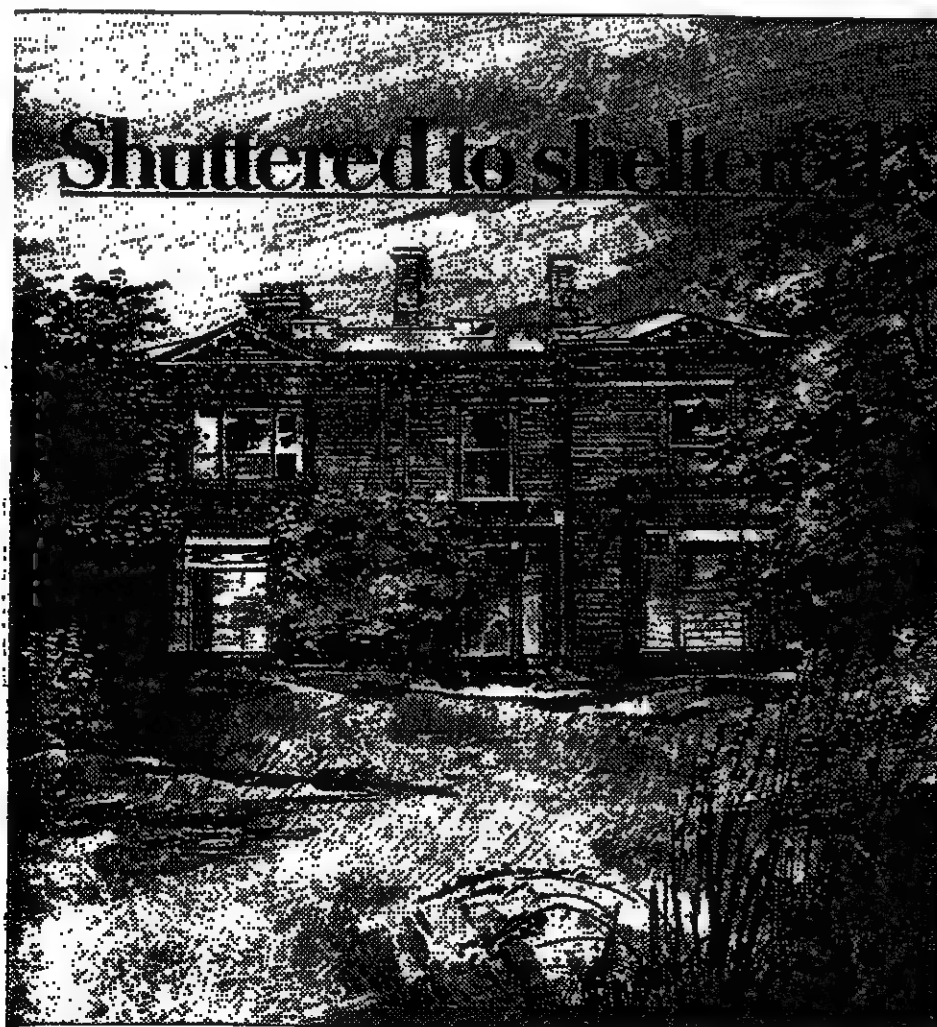
"It is not within our capacity to offer a home or a facility to every Anchor tenant who becomes too frail to stay in sheltered housing. I think it is within our capacity to be able to tell them very clearly what is on offer within their neighbourhood and in that way, try to reduce the degree of worry about the future."

Schroder Investment Management

We congratulate Anchor Housing Association on their excellent work in providing housing for older people and are pleased to be associated with them as their investment advisors.

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elderly in the centre of Eastbourne was opened in October 1985 by the former Minister of Housing, Mr Ian Gow T.D. M.P.

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FOCUS

ANCHOR HOUSING/2

Cold facts of shelter in a bleak climate

The progressive tightening of government purse strings has had a devastating effect on the housing association movement as a whole and Anchor has not escaped. Building programmes are having to be cut back radically and new sources of finance sought.

Four basic types of accommodation are on offer - sheltered housing for rent, accommodation for the frail elderly who need high levels of care and both subsidized and unsubsidized sheltered housing for sale.

Each is financed in a different way and the first three are particularly vulnerable to government economic cuts.

Sheltered housing for rent: in the current financial year, which ends in April, Anchor expects to spend about £20 million. Of that, about 80 per cent will be in the form of a grant from the Housing Corporation and 20 per cent will be long-term mortgages (repayment mortgages spread over at least 40 and sometimes up to 60 years).

The money from the corporation is an outright grant with no repayment and no interest. (The only money

that goes back into the public purse is the so-called grant redemption - rents rise over a period of time in line with inflation but the mortgage interest charge is fixed, so the probability is that even with rising management costs there will be a surplus. That is repayable to the Treasury through a 100 per cent "tax".)

The programme is decreasing because of the severe cuts in government finance through the Housing Corporation. In national terms the number of new projects approved for 1986-87 will be reduced by 25 per cent on the current year. The total has been going down steadily over the past five years.

This year Anchor is building about 500 units, five years ago it was 2,500; and in 1986-87 it could well halve again.

Frail elderly schemes: Anchor has three existing schemes - at Bradford, Birmingham and Milton Keynes - which provide for people too frail to be accommodated in conventional sheltered housing.

These have been subsidized through the Housing Corporation, but there is now

great uncertainty about funding in this area, particularly for the type of schemes Anchor is now planning - full-scale, purpose-built projects aimed exclusively at the frail elderly.

Anchor is already working on five such schemes and making the assumption that few of the schemes will be subsidized. The value of the programme in hand is about £5 million a year and Anchor is working on the assumption that it will have to be paid for by a combination of building society loans and charity money.

The present breakdown is 75 to 80 per cent building society loans, up to 20 per cent charitable funds and 5 per cent from other sources such as area health authorities.

The running costs of these schemes and the interest repayments on the building society money are crucially dependent on the amount which the Government is prepared to give to individual tenants by way of Department of Health and Social Security "board and lodging" payments.

These used to be discretionary and ran at up to £140 a week. But in 1984 the



Putting support into practice: Richard Bettesworth, director of Anchor Housing Association, and Caroline Cayzer, manager of Appeals and Funding

Government abolished discretion and set a limit of £110, upgraded to £120 in November. This parsimony has very nearly wrecked programmes but Anchor has decided to go ahead, relying more on charity money and hoping that the limit will be raised again soon.

Subsidized sheltered housing for sale: In the current year about £4 million will be spent. Of that, 70 per cent would come from the owner-occupier who is buying the unit and 30 per cent by way of housing corpora-

tion grant. Most sheltered housing for sale on the open market is in the £30,000-plus range.

The object of the subsidy is to make sheltered housing available to the less well off who may have a house of their own to sell but are probably only going to raise £25,000 to £30,000 on that property. The deal gives the buyer a 70 per cent equity stake. On resale 70 per cent of the increase in the value goes to the owner.

Unsubsidized sheltered housing for sale: A private

developer builds sheltered housing and sells it on the open market. The Guardian Housing Association takes on the long-term management. This programme is probably running at about £15 million at present.

The incoming buyer pays 100 per cent for that he or she gets a long-term lease from Guardian which is the freehold owner.

Officials such as Richard Bettesworth, director of the Anchor Housing Association, find they are being stretched to the full to come up with schemes that will allow Anchor to operate at a reasonable level.

"The need hasn't changed," he says, "but the ability to finance it through public funding has changed dramatically."

To try to make up at least part of the cuts in public funding, Anchor is now going direct to industry with a scheme called "Anchor and Commerce in Partnership". It is aimed at companies which want to look after their own pensioners but do not know how to do so.

Anchor suggests that if the companies will put up the loan finance for one (or more) sheltered flats it will provide accommodation for rent by one (or more) of the company's pensioners at one of the Anchor developments.

Anchor gets development finance and in return the company has the right to place a pensioner in Anchor flat of its choice.

A close watch on cowboy operators

There are a lot of well-meaning people providing residential care for the frail elderly. There are also more than a few rogues. The frail elderly need a lot of help to get through the basic routines of everyday life - from getting out of bed and dressing to preparing meals - so they are particularly vulnerable.

The substantial rise in Department of Health and Social Security rates for board and lodging in the early 1980s - when discretionary payments of £130 to £140 or even more a week were quite common - started a boom in private residential care for the frail elderly.

Businessmen, who had to cover mortgage payments and running costs out of their client's (usually DHSS-backed) payments, found that in practice many DHSS offices would stump up whatever they asked.

The quality of what was provided ranged from small, almost loving, family homes to homes where residents were cynically exploited.

Anchor, which had begun to look for an expanding role in this specialized area felt that there was a strong need for someone to set standards, both of management and care and of financial probity.

The need has become even greater. In 1984 the Government stopped the discretionary element of DHSS board and lodging payments and imposed a limit of £110 (raised to £120 in 1985).

Michael Corp, group director of Anchor, is concerned at what may be going on in some of the homes set up by "cowboy" operators. "There's little doubt that over the last

two or three years there have been many homes set up by people who have decided to exploit a market sector and I think we'd be very worried by a residential home that was trying to exploit a market sector down at £120 a week. I hate to think what's going on to make that a profitable venture for the proprietors."

Ironically, the Government's change of rates on the board and lodging payments nearly wrecked Anchor's plans. There has been uncertainty about just how much will be available from now on and particularly for the kind of full-scale purpose-built projects aimed exclusively at the frail elderly.

Mr Corp expects about six projects, together providing accommodation for about 200, to be operational within two years.

If it were to plan ahead with any confidence, Anchor had to assume there would be little public money available for such schemes and that it would have to rely on mortgage finance and charity money. That meant, like private sector operators, it would largely depend on the DHSS board and lodging payments.

"When we started looking at this, figures of about £130 to £140 a week and more were regularly being paid around the country," Mr Corp says. "Therefore it appeared that we could make the thing work with building society mortgages. Then there was the sharp cutback. At £110 a week we had no chance of making schemes

work with building society mortgages.

"At £120 we still can't make it work for certain but we've decided that it's worth taking the risk to continue to develop the schemes in the belief that that sum will go up again sometime in the not too distant future, and because we're receiving substantial charity support."

As part of its efforts to gauge how the needs of the elderly are changing and may change in the next decade or two, Anchor has also commissioned research into the extent to which the

independence of its elderly tenants is threatened by medical factors.

The researcher, a GP with a special interest in geriatric medicine, looked in detail at 60 tenants in two London schemes.

Altogether 18 were regarded as "housebound" (unable to go out for an appreciable period of time); 19 were classed as "incontinent"; and 13 were found to be "mentally impaired" to the extent that their daily living abilities were affected.

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A-plant causes cancer concern

By Ronald Kaux

The number of young leukaemia victims living near Dounreay nuclear plant in Caithness gives "cause for concern", says a study into the incidence of cancer in northern Scotland.

The study, carried out by the Scottish Health Service Common Service Agency, found five cases of leukaemia in young people under the age of 25, four under 15-year-olds, in the area of Dounreay between 1979 and 1984. Four of the victims lived in Thurso, 12 kilometres from the nuclear station. The fifth lived only 3 kilometres away. There were no similar recorded cases of leukaemia in the area between 1968 and 1978.

Four were originally registered as acute lymphoid, and one as acute myeloid leukaemia, but this diagnosis was changed. There were no similar recorded cases of leukaemia in the area between 1968 and 1978.

"On the other hand, the fact that all reported cases within 25km occurred within a five-year period, five of them were in children under 15 and five within 12.5km of Dounreay, may increase its potential importance. Similar findings have been reported from other nuclear installations: Sellafield, Hunterston, Aldermaston and West Burghfield," the study said.

The findings were given in a letter today to *The Lancet* by Dr. Michael Heasman, director of the Information Services Division of the agency. He said that while the findings were difficult to evaluate, they were cause for concern. An examination of all other childhood cancers and of leukaemia and certain types of cancer in adults showed no significant increase around Dounreay.

The study was commissioned as part of the public inquiry into plans to develop a nuclear reprocessing plant at Dounreay.

Paris 'couture' is back in fashion



From Suzy Menkes, Paris

The youngest, freshest and sexiest collections for 20 years have put Paris *couture* back on the fashion map. A new-found confidence and energy pulsated through the shows, as the once-staid designers heeled skirts above the knee and modelled their clothes sensuously round the body.

Curvy tailoring, seductively draped evening dresses, delicate lace and sweeps of silk jersey all suggested a return to traditional *couture* elegance. The designers are trading again in a fashion currency debased by the



From Suzy Menkes, Paris

swinging sixties and the sportswear revolution. In a return to the style of the 1950s, Yves Saint Laurent and Givenchy both paraded their collections without background music. Models, once slaves to the rhythm, glided silently down the catwalk to show off the superb clothes.

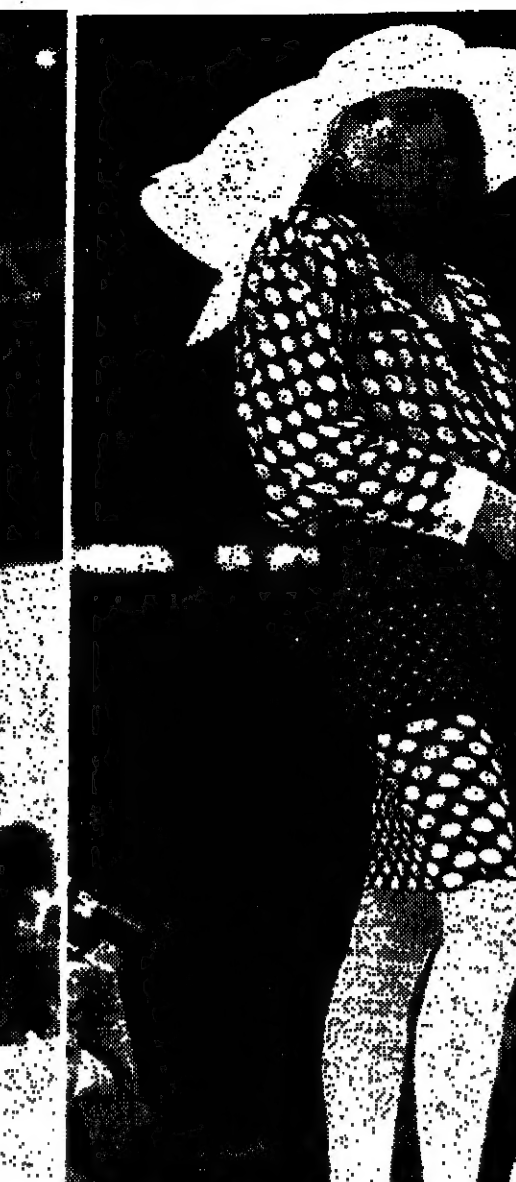
Audiences have doubled in the last two years and the *couture* collections are now bursting out of the gilded salons. Next season they will be held under one roof in the foyer of the Grand Palais, which houses France's finest art exhibitions. Money is the key to the



From Suzy Menkes, Paris

new-found success and creative energy of the once moribund *haute couture* (starting price £10,000). The number of elite customers has remained stable at 3,500, but this international clientele is buying an increasing number of outfits. A 40 per cent increase in *couture* turnover is reported by M. Jacques Mosnier, president-elect of the *Chambre Syndicale*.

The strength of the United States dollar has brought American customers back to the *couture*, according to M. Mosnier. But the most important source of patronage is undoubtedly the Arab customers.



From Suzy Menkes, Paris

More significant for the French fashion industry as a whole is the latest survey by the Comité Colbert of tourist shopping habits. Designer labels account for 82 per cent of fashion purchases made by visitors to the capital.

The socialist government, greeted with dread by the French high fashion industry, has in fact been its great benefactor. Investment in the new fashion museum alone has been £5 million. Culture minister M. Jack Lang, the Minister of Culture, has given public recognition to fashion as art by allowing ready-to-wear shows to be



From Suzy Menkes, Paris

staged at the Louvre courtyard and in the Tuilleries Gardens. With the French general election only six weeks away, all sides are showing a high fashion profile. Yesterday, the rightist mayor of Paris M. Jacques Chirac, the Rightist mayor of Paris, hosted the Golden Thimble awards.

The two sides came elegantly together at the show of Madame Gres, aged 84, the of *haute couture*. But Madame Mitterrand, in a discreet brown suit, and Madame Chirac, in a black dress, were tacitly placed in different rooms of the *couture* salon. (Photographer: Harry Kerr)

Hotel in search of its past

The Hotel de la Grande Bretagne has launched an appeal to its friends and patrons worldwide to enrich its archives by coming forward with any significant mementos of its chequered history which began in 1874.

Athens was then a mid-sized town of 67,000 people, plagued by a chronic water shortage that often brought the new hotel's liveried servants out on the street to buy drinking water for the guests from itinerant vendors.

The GB, as it is affectionately known to generations of Athenians, is not just the oldest existing hotel in town. It is an historic landmark that was often the hub of this nation's political fortunes, a silent witness of its vicissitudes — eleven *coups d'état*, four dictatorships, a civil war, two world wars and the German occupation when it was converted into the Wehrmacht's headquarters.

At one point in 1944, when the communist guerrillas had overrun Greece, the GB and a few blocks around it were the only patch of free Greek territory.

The hotel was the seat of the beleaguered Greek Government, then led by George Papandreu, the present Prime Minister's late father. It was also the headquarters of the British Army which eventually defeated the communist bid for power, as well as the haunt of celebrated war correspondents who watched history in the making practically from the GB bar's doorstep.

But there was an artillery shell from 1917 by the Royalists against the hotel for republican sympathies. This was on show, the side with the signatures of 1896 with the signatures of foreign athletes taking part in the Olympic Games at the Athens Stadium.

Next to it was the calligraphic recipe for orange *compote*, as well as the hotel's guestbook, left open where Pierre Loti, the French novelist, inscribed some complimentary thoughts in 1903. The GB exhibition was called "A Glimpse into the Past". And in a sense the place seems to be the only place where Greek tourists can look for comfort. The prospect for Greek tourism this year are fairly bleak, chiefly because of terrorism.

The occupancy rate these days is just above ten per cent. Three large hotels in Athens have gone bankrupt. Others sought to retrench their expenses.

True, the number of foreign tourists leapt from six to seven million in 1985 and the British were again in the lead with 1.3 million. But for the first time there were fewer Americans and this hurts luxury hotels like the GB.

The Greeks blame all this on the travel warning put out by President Reagan last June urging Americans to keep out of Athens Airport after the hijack of the TWA flight to Rome. Security at Athens airport has since been tightened, but the proliferation of terrorist acts in the region in the last quarter of 1985 induced the Americans to be wary of Mediterranean cruises, and seek their pleasures nearer home.

"There is one comforting thought in all this," said the general manager, Mr. Apostolos Doxiadis. "It is that in a way we are all — Israel, Italy, Spain and we — in the same bag. So we can combine forces to fight back."

Mario Modiano

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Music
Performances of chamber works by Piazzi Raimieri, selected by her and performed by her friends; British Music Information Centre, 10 Stratford Place, W1, 7.30.
Cello recital by Julian Lloyd Webber; Lion Music Hall, Shrewsbury, 7.45.
Concert by NCOs Symphony Orchestra; St. John's Smith Square, SW1, 7.30.
Don Rendell Duo, saxophone, flute, clarinet, guitar and bass; Royal Festival Hall, 7.30.
BBC Concert
Stanley Black (conductor); The Hexagon; Reading, 7.30.
East of England Orchestra; William Houghton (trumpet); Mansfield Leisure Centre, 7.30.
Songs by Schumann, Strauss and Wolf; Mitsuko Shirai (soprano) and Hartmut Holl (piano); Wigmore Hall, W1, 7.30.
Youth disco, by Sarbez Roadshow; Sittingbourne Town Hall, 7.
Albany Brass Ensemble; Royal Institution, River Street, Truro, 7.30.

Organ recitals by James Parsons; Reid Hall, Edinburgh University, 1.10, Houston Church, Redditch, 8.
Organ recital by John Scott; German Christ Church, Montpelier Place, SW7, 7.30.
Alec Rich and Musicians; Manchester Concert Hall, Royal Northern College of Music, 7.30.
A Tribute to Nat King Cole with Danny Williams; St David's Hall, The Hayes, Cardiff, 7.30.
Indian community dance; South Hill Park Wildlife Theatre, Bracknell, 7.30.
Concert by the Beaux Arts Trio; Dudley Town Hall, 7.30.
Chandos Chamber Choir; Messiah from scratch; St Stephen's Church, Church, Dulwich, SE21, 7.30.
Talks, lectures, films
June Redfern opens her studio to visitors. Artist in Residence: The National Gallery, WC2, 2.
Masterpieces of Persian, Turkish and Mughal painting, by Barbara Bredt; 12, Manukriprasad, from India, by Barbara Bredt; 2, The British Library galleries, WC1.
A Penny Reading: A Victorian evening of prose, verse and more by 19th century writers, by Gabriel Woolf; Leyland High School, Comestres, 7.30.

Time - Cult and Calculation
in Hellenistic and early medieval schools; by Professor Wesley M. Stevens; Durham University, 43 North Bailey, Durham City, 8.
Salvator Rosa, Witches at their incantation; Felicity Woolf; National Gallery, WC2, 1.
Variations on a theme, The reclining female figure; lecture by Mary R. Ellis; 1, Video Artists on tour; Kevin Artson; 8, Tate Gallery, SW1.

Anniversaries

Birth: Franz Schubert, Vienna, 1797; Zane Grey, novelist, Zanesville, Ohio, 1872; Anna Pavlova, Leningrad, 1882.
Deaths: Guy Fawkes, together with three fellow conspirators, was hanged, drawn and quartered, London, 1606; Charles Edward Stuart, the Young Pretender, Rome, 1788; John Galsworthy, novelist, London, 1933; A.A. Milne, writer, creator of Christopher Robin, etc., Hatfield, Sussex, 1956; Samuel Goldwyn, film producer, Los Angeles, 1974.

Top films

The top box-office films in London:
1 Rocky IV
2 A Chorus Line
3 Kiss of the Spider Woman
4 Back to the Future
5 Teen Wolf
6 Year of the Dragon
7 Defiance of the Heavens
8 Death in a French Garden
9 Death Wish II
10 Letter to Brezhnev
The top films in the provinces:
1 Back to the Future
2 National Lampoon European Vacation
3 Death Wish II
4 Fritz's Honour
5 Plenty
Supplied by Screen International

Top video rentals

1 Rocky: First Blood II
2 Ghostbusters
3 Back to the Future
4 Beverly Hills Cop
5 The Terminator
6 The New Ending Story
7 Wizards of the Lost Kingdom
8 (8) Into the Night
9 (9) The Last Starfighter
10 (10) Water
Supplied by Video Business

The pound

Bank	Bank	Bank
Rate	Rate	Rate
Australia \$	2.07	1.95
Canada \$	2.07	1.95
Denmark kr	22.90	22.90
France F	6.55	6.55
Germany DM	10.33	10.33
Italy Lira	1,366	1,366
Japan Yen	163.60	163.60
Netherlands Gld	3.60	3.60
Norway Kr	4.76	4.76
Portugal Esc	200.48	200.48
Spain Ptas	166.64	166.64
Sweden Kr	10.33	10.33
Switzerland Fr	2.00	2.00
USA \$	1.60	1.60
Yugoslavia Dnr	650	650

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.
Retail Price Index: 378.9
London: The FT index closed up 5.1 at 7155.7.

Food prices

Retail meat prices have fallen this week, with the biggest change on beef, mutton and sirloin steaks which are down 4p per lb to an average of £2.85 and £3.30 respectively. Top side and sirloin, at £2.16 a lb, is down 2p. Leg of pork averages £1.04, down 2p. Loin chops at £1.40, and boneless shoulder at £1.22, are also cheaper. All home-produced lamb is down about 1p per lb, with the exception of best-end chops and middle neck. Average price for whole leg is £1.71, loin chops £1.93, and whole shoulder £1.03. New Zealand loin chops also down to an average £1.44 per lb. Some good meat buys at shops and supermarkets this week: Sainsbury's Topside of beef £1.88 per lb, New Zealand whole shoulder of lamb 58p lb, Asda home produced minced beef 89p lb and New Zealand sirloin 3lb 4oz at £1.39 lb. Sainsbury's beef shoulder braising steak £1.39 per lb and breaded turkey escalopes £1.25 each. Finest frozen chickens 3lb down to 40p the 47p per lb. Dewhurst and Baxters' pork steak £2.79 per lb, Tesco New Zealand lamb leg 99p per lb and shoulder 52p per lb. Bejams pork chops 25-30 packs 95p per lb and New Zealand lamb legs 99p per lb down 30p. Marks and Spencer have 20p per lb off their beef cuts.

Trout, once a luxury food, is now widely available on the fish farms throughout the country.

Supplies of sea fish are also particularly good for the time of year. Fresh herrings at 89p per lb, kippers, 96p per lb, and mackerel, fresh 62p, and smoked 99p, can all be recommended. Large quantities are slightly cheaper at around £1.72 per lb, as are haddock, £1.75, whiting at £1.29, and plaice £1.90. Lemon sole is becoming more plentiful and is down by 5p to £2.35 per lb.

Snow Reports

Depth (cm)	U	Piste	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (Spm)	°C
AUSTRIA	140	260	good	heavy good	fine	-1
Ischgl	70	180	fair	varied fair	fine	-1
Pierce winds, upper lifts closed						
Lochmberg	50	140	good	crust good	cloud	-1
Golden/Hoch	50	140	good	crust good	cloud	-1
SNOW	180	380	good	powder good	cloud	-2
Les Arcs	130	230	good	varied good	cloud	-5
Good snow, cold wind						
ANDORRA	140	260	good	heavy good	cloud	-1
Good skiing everywhere						
ITALY	50	80	fair	fair good	snow	-4
Good skiing on most pistes						
SWITZERLAND	145	220	good	powder good	fine	-2
Crans-Montana	130	200	good	powder good	fine	-2
Excellent skiing conditions						
Gstaad	60	150	good	good good	snow	-2
Excellent conditions						
Lanzarote	90	130	good	varied good	fine	-2
Skiing restricted due to high winds						
St Moritz	70	70	good	powder good	snow	-10
New snow on good base						
Verbier	70	220	good	varied fair	cloud	0
Good piste skiing						

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper, and art to artificial.

Roads

London and South-east
A3005: Single alternate lane traffic in Norwood Road, junction of Ferry Lane. A285: Single alternate lane traffic between New Bridge and Chalkers Corner (A306). A31: One lane at junction with Jacklin Lane, West Street, Alresford, Hampshire.
Midlands
M1: Contrailow on roundabout at junction 18 (A425/A5, Crick); slip road closed; diversion from M1 at junction 16 and 20. A141: Temporary lights 24 hours a day on Warboys to Chatteris road. A46: Contrailow until March on Colehill bypass.
Wales and West Mid
One lane southbound between junctions 25 and 26; hard shoulder and inside lane closed. A39: Restrictions between Street and A361 at Walton, Somerset. Road works at Holland Arms on Holyhead to Carnegydion road; temporary lights at Bethesda.
Norfolk
M61: Left-hand lane closure on both north and southbound carriageways, on Blawey Bridge, M61 link at Walton Summit.
Scotland
A832: Reconstruction work south of Garloch. A811: single lane traffic and temporary signals E of Garrochburn. A814: Single-lane traffic and temporary signals W of Dumbarton East station, Glasgow Road, Dumbarton. Information supplied by the AA

Parliament today

Commons: (9.30) Children and Young Persons (Amendment) Bill, second reading and other Private Members' Bills.

LIGHTING UP TIME
London 5.19 pm to 7.10 pm
Bristol 5.15 pm to 7.05 pm
Manchester 5.15 pm to 7.05 pm
Penzance 5.44 pm to 7.27 pm

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud; r, rain; s, sun.
Belfast r 4.30
Birmingham r 4.30
Bristol r 4.30
Cardiff r 4.30
Cork r 4.30
Dundee r 4.30
Edinburgh r 4.30
Exeter r 4.30
Glasgow r 4.30
Liverpool r 4.30
London r 4.30
Manchester r 4.30
Newcastle r 4.30
Nottingham r 4.30
Oxford r 4.30
Plymouth r 4.30
Reading r 4.30
Sheffield r 4.30
Southampton r 4.30
Stoke r 4.30
Sunderland r 4.30
Tottenham r 4.30
Wolverhampton r 4.30
Wrexham r 4.30
York r 4.30

Portfolio

Portfolio - how to stay on top of the market. Monday's share market was a mixed bag, with the FTSE 100 index ending up 5.1 points at 7155.7. The main reason for the rise was a strong performance by the banking sector, with Lloyds TSB leading the way. However, the industrial sector was mixed, with some gains and some losses. The overall picture is one of cautious optimism, with investors looking for further gains in the coming weeks.

Weather

A cold E airstream covers the British Isles.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, central S, central N
England, Midlands: Rather cloudy, mainly dry but scattered showers of rain or sleet; wind NE fresh or strong; max temp 6c (39f).
East Angles, E, NE
England: Mostly cloudy, occasional showers of rain or sleet, snow on high ground; wind NE strong to gale; max temp 4c (39f).
Channel Islands
Rather cloudy, occasional rain or sleet; bright intervals; wind NE fresh or strong; max temp 4c (39f).
SW, NW
England, Wales: Mainly dry, rather cloudy at times; bright or sunny intervals; wind NE fresh or strong; max temp 6c (43f).
Lake District, Isle of Man, SW, NE, NW
Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland, N. Ireland: Mainly dry, rather cloudy at times; bright or sunny intervals; wind NE moderate or fresh, locally strong; max temp 5c (41f).
Lookout for tomorrow and Saturday
Little change.

Around Britain

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
East Coast	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
West Coast	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
South Coast	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
North Coast	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
Central	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
South	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
West	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
East	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
North	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
South	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
West	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
East	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
North	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
South	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
West	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
East	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
North	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
South	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
West	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
East	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
North	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
South	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
West	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
East	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
North	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
South	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
West	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
East	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
North	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
South	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
West	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
East	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
North	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
South	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
West	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
East	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
North	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
South	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
West	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
East	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
North	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
South	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
West	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
East	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
North	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
South	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
West	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
East	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
North	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
South	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
West	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
East	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
North	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
South	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
West	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
East	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
North	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
South	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
West	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
East	5-7	NE	Cloudy	
North	4-6	NE	Cloudy	
South	5-7	NE		